

# Recommended Nonfiction Books

## for Young Adults

Listed below are nonfiction books recommended for young adults. These books vary in the difficulty of both the text and the content. Not all books are appropriate for all readers. (Annotations from Library of Congress).

Allen, Thoman B. ***George Washington: Spymaster: How America Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War***. A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war. **973.385 ALL**

Armstrong, Jennifer. ***Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World : The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance***. Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land. **919.89 ARM**

Armstrong, Lance. ***It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life***. **921 ARMSTRONG**.

Bausum, Ann. ***Dragon Bones and Dinosaur Eggs: A Photobiography of Explorer Roy Chapman Andrews***. A biography of the great explorer-adventurer, who discovered huge finds of dinosaur bones in Mongolia, pioneered modern paleontology field research, and became the director of the American Museum of Natural History. **921 ANDREWS**

Berger, Melvin, and Gilda Berger. ***The Real Vikings: Craftsmen, Traders, and Fearsome Raiders***. **948.022 BER**

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. ***I Have Lived a Thousand Years***. The author describes her experiences during World War II when she and her family were sent to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. **940.5318 BIT**

Boas, Jacob. ***We are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers who Died in the Holocaust***. **940.5318 WE**

Borden, Louise. ***The journey that saved Curious George : the true wartime escape of Margret and H.A. Rey***. Describes the popular children's authors' childhoods and early life together, their travels and marriage in Brazil, and their dramatic escape from World War II-torn Europe on bicycles. **920 BOR**

Bredeson, Carmen. ***After the Last Dog Died : The True-life, Hair-raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson and his 1912 Antarctic Expedition***. Describes the life and career of the Australian explorer, Sir Doulgas Mawson, focusing on his 1912 scientific expedition to Antarctica. **919.8904 BRE**

Bridges, Ruby. ***Through My Eyes***. Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960. **921 BRIDGES**

Bushy, Peter. ***First to Fly: How Wilbur and Orville Wright Invented the Airplane***. A look at the lives of the Wright brothers, from their childhood interest in flight, through their study of successful gliders and other flying machines, to their triumphs at Kitty Hawk and beyond. **920 BUS**

Capuzzo, Michael. ***Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916***. Details the first documented cases in American history of sharks attacking swimmers, which occurred along the Atlantic coast of New Jersey in 1916. **597.3156 CAP**

Collins, Mary. ***Airborne: A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright***. Examines the lives of the Wright brothers and discusses their experiments and triumphs in the field of flight. **920 COL**

Cooper, Michael L. ***Dust to Eat: Drought and Depression in the 1930s***. **973.917 COO**

Crowe, Chris. ***Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case***. Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955. **364.1523 CRO**

Crutcher, Chris. ***King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography***. Chris Crutcher, author of young adult novels such as "Ironman" and "Whale Talk," as well as short stories, tells of growing up in Cascade, Idaho, and becoming a writer. **921 CRUTCHER**

Drez, Ronald J. ***Remember D-Day: The Plan, the Invasion, Survivor Stories***. Discusses the events and personalities involved in the momentous Allied invasion of France on June 6, 1944. **940.5421 DRE**

Fleischman, John. ***Phineas Gage : A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science***. **921 GAGE**

Fleming, Candace. ***Ben Franklin's Almanac : Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life***. Brings together eighteenth century etchings, artifacts, and quotations to create the effect of a scrapbook of the life of Benjamin Franklin. **921 FRANKLIN**

Frank, Mitch. ***Understanding September 11th : answering questions about the attacks on America***. Explains the historical and religious issues that sparked terrorists to attack America on September 11, 2001, including information on Islam, Osama bin Laden, and the Middle East. **973.931 FRA**

Freedman, Russell. ***Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights***. **921 ANDERSON**

Fritz, Jean. ***The Lost Colony of Roanoke***. Describes the English colony of Roanoke, which was founded in 1585, and discusses the mystery of its disappearance. **975.6175 FRI**

Gantos, Jack. ***Hole in My Life***. The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer. **921 GANTOS**

Goodman, Joan Elizabeth. ***Beyond the Sea of Ice: The Voyages of Henry Hudson***. An account of Henry Hudson's four voyages in search of a passage to the Orient in the early seventeenth century and the discoveries made by him on the northeastern coast of America. **921 HUDSON**

Gore, Al. ***An inconvenient truth: The crisis of global warming***. Adaptation for young people. The former vice-president details the factors contributing to the growing climate crisis, describes changes

to the environment caused by global warming, and discusses the shift in environmental policy that is needed to avert disaster. **363.7387 GOR**

Gottlieb, Lori. ***Stick Figure: A Diary of My Former Self***. 921 **GOTTLIEB**

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. ***Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond***. Explores the lives and projects of artistic visionaries Christo and Jeanne-Claude and describes how they persisted for more than two decades before being allowed to install their project "The Gates" in New York's Central Park. **709.22 GRE**

Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Albino Animals***. Everyone has probably seen the white mice or rabbits with pink eyes. Learn about these and other albino animals, the genetics that cause albinism, and the survival challenges albinos face. **616.55 HAL**

Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Dinosaur Mummies: Beyond Bare-Bone Fossils***. Learn about rare dinosaur fossils: the "dinosaur mummies" that are not just bones and teeth, but also include fossilized soft tissues, like skin, muscle and internal organs and what they can reveal about prehistoric life. **567.9 HAL**

Hillenbrand, Laura. ***Seabiscuit: An American Legend***. 798.4 **HIL**

Hillman, Laura. ***I will plant you a lilac tree : a memoir of a Schindler's list survivor***. Presents the true story of a young girl from a Polish ghetto who was sent to a series of concentration camps and survived the war after being placed on Schindler's List, finally marrying a fellow survivor. **940.5318 HIL**

Hoose, Philip. ***The race to save the Lord God Bird***. Tells the story of the ivory-billed woodpecker's extinction in the United States, describing the encounters between this species and humans, and discussing what these encounters have taught us about preserving endangered creatures. **598.72 HOO**

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Shutting out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1915***. Photographs and text document the experiences of five individuals who came to live in the Lower East Side of New York City as children or young adults from Belarus, Italy, Lithuania, and Romania at the turn of the twentieth century. **307.764 HOP**

Hyde, Margaret O. ***Depression: What You Need to Know***. Discusses the causes and symptoms of depression, who suffers from this condition, and how it can be treated. **616.8527 HYD**

Karwoski, Gail Langer. ***Miracle: The True Story of the Wreck of the Sea Venture***. In the summer of 1609 a fleet of nine ships left England bound for the Jamestown Colony. Days before landfall, the fleet was hit by a hurricane. Four nights later, the flagship, Sea Venture, ran aground on the reefs on Bermuda's northern coast. Miraculously everyone survived. This is their story. **972 KAR**

Kerley, Barbara. ***Walt Whitman: Words for America***. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief at Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse. **921 WHITMAN**

Larson, Erik. ***The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America***. An account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 relates the stories of two men who shaped the history of the event--architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and serial killer Herman Mudgett. **364.15 LAR**

Latifa. ***My Forbidden Face: Growing up under the Taliban: A Young Woman's Story.*** 921  
**LATIFA**

Lekuton, Joseph Lemasolai. ***Facing the Lion: Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna.*** A member of the Masai people describes his life as he grew up in a northern Kenya village, travelled to America to attend college, and became an elementary school teacher in Virginia. **921 LEKUTON**

Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. ***Freakonomics : a rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything.*** 330 **LEV**

Lobel, Anita. ***No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War.*** The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards. **940.5318 LOB**

Mah, Adeline Yen. ***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter.*** 921 **MAH**

Marrin, Albert. ***Oh, Rats! : The story of rats and people.*** Presents the history of rats and humans. Describes how rats have been eaten, used for medical research, enjoyed as pets, and reviled as carriers of disease. **599.35 MAR**

Marrin, Albert. ***Secrets from the Rocks: Dinosaur hunting with Roy Chapman Andrews.*** A biography of the scientist-adventurer, Roy Chapman Andrews, focusing on the expeditions he led for New York's American Museum of Natural History to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia in an effort to uncover dinosaur fossils. **921 ANDREWS**

Matthews, Tom L. ***Always Inventing: A Photobiography of Alexander Graham Bell.*** A biography, with photographs and quotes from Bell himself, which follows this well known inventor from his childhood in Scotland through his life-long efforts to come up with ideas that would improve people's lives. **921 BELL**

McPherson, James M. ***Fields of Fury: The American Civil War.*** Examines the events and effects of the American Civil War. **973.7 MCP**

Meltzer, Milton. ***Piracy & plunder : a murderous business.*** Surveys the history of pirates, why and how they became thieves and killers, the lives they led on sea and on land, the harm they did, and the fates they suffered. **910.45 MEL**

Menchu, Rigoberta. ***The Girl from Chimel.*** The Nobel Peace Prize winner details her Guatemalan childhood, recounting stories of her grandparents and parents, and her close association with the natural world that surrounded her highland village. **921 MENCHU**

Montgomery, Sy. ***The golden moon bear : science and adventure in the Asian tropics.*** Introduces the research involved in tracking and studying a previously unknown species of bear in Southeast Asia as a scientist and her assistant go into the jungle and visit remote villages to find out all they can about this newly discovered animal. **599.78 MON**

Montgomery, Sy. ***Quest for the tree kangaroo : an expedition to the cloud forest of New Guinea.*** Follows the story of the scientists who research the amazing Matschie's tree kangaroo, which makes its home in the ancient trees of Papua New Guinea's cloud forest. **599.22 MON**

Murphy, Jim. ***An American Plague : The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.*** 614.541 MUR

Murphy, Jim. ***Inside the Alamo.*** An overview of the struggle between the Texan settlers and Mexico's General Santa Anna for control of Texas, with a detailed description of the 1836 siege of the Alamo. Includes biographical sketches and quotations of some of those involved. 976.403 MUR

Murphy, Jim. ***Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting.*** Depicts the first-hand experience by officers and soldiers on both sides during World War I when a cease-fire was declared on Christmas Day in No Man's Land on the Western front. Describes the comradery, the shared songs, gifts, and celebrations and the realization by both the Germans and the Allies that it was an extraordinary event. Includes amateur photos of the soldiers in the field, a time line, and an index. 940.4 MUR

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Bad Boy.*** 921 MYERS

Oxnam, Robert B. ***A fractured mind : my life with multiple personality disorder.*** A noted scholar describes his battle with multiple personality disorder, detailing the blackouts and episodic rages that led to the diagnosis and the process of uncovering the childhood trauma that caused the condition. 921 OXNAM

Pascoe, Elaine. ***Fooled You! Fakes and Hoaxes through the Years.*** Explores the various hoaxes that have been successfully perpetrated and believed by the gullible masses, such as crop circles, fairies on film, and giant cats, examining how such trickery was done so well and the process by which the hoaxers and their stunts were finally revealed to all. 001.95 PAS

Paulsen, Gary. ***Caught by the Sea: My Life on Boats.*** Gary Paulsen, author of Hatchet and other adventure novels, tells about his lifelong love of sailing, boats he has owned, and the storms, sharks, and peaceful lagoons he has experienced on his voyages. 921 PAULSEN

Paulsen, Gary. ***Guts : the true stories behind Hatchet and the Brian books.*** The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson. 921 PAULSEN

Paulsen, Gary. ***How Angel Peterson got his name: and other outrageous tales about extreme sports.*** Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel. 921 PAULSEN

Paulsen, Gary. ***My life in dog years.*** The author describes some of the dogs that have had special places in his life, including his first dog, Snowball, in the Phillipines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life. 921 PAULSEN

Paulsen, Gary. ***Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod.*** 921 PAULSEN

Paulsen, Gary. ***Woodsong.*** For a rugged outdoor man and his family, life in northern Minnesota is a wild experience involving wolves, deer, and the sled dogs that make their way of life possible. Includes an account of the author's first Iditarod, a dogsled race across Alaska. 921 PAULSEN

Piven, Joshua and David Borgenicht. ***The worst-case scenario survival handbook.*** Experts provide step-by-step instructions for escaping from, avoiding, or surviving a wide range of dire situations. 613.69 PIV

Rappaport, Doreen. ***Free at Last! Stories and Songs of Emancipation***. Describes the experiences of African Americans in the South, from the Emancipation in 1863 to the 1954 Supreme Court decision that declared school segregation illegal. **973.3 RAP**

Rappaport, Doreen and Joan Verniero. ***Victory or death! : stories of the American Revolution***. Shares stories of people who participated in the American Revolution, including sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington and James Armistead, a slave from Virginia. **973.3 RAP**

Robinson, Sharon. ***Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America***. A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter. **921 ROBINSON**

Runyon, Brent. ***The burn journals***. The author recounts the year he spent in a burn unit following his suicide attempt at fourteen, describing the painful treatments, skin-grafting procedures, rehabilitation, and psychotherapy. **921 RUNYON**

Sartrapi, Marjane. ***Persepolis* and *Persepolis 2***. **955.0542 SAT**

Scott, Elaine. ***Poles apart: why penguins and polar bears will never be neighbors***. Offers a comprehensive look at the vast differences between the two axis of the earth through a review of their different animals, climates, and geography along with profiles of the explorers who first ventured there. **909.091 SCO**

Schlosser, Eric. ***Chew on This: Everything you don't want to know about fast food***. Examines the fast food industry with facts about its evolution and practices, the effects of fast food consumption on public health, and the international success of fast food. **394.12 SCH**

Sís, Peter. ***The Tree of Life: A book Depicting the Life of Charles Darwin, Naturalist, Geologist, and Thinker***. Presents the life of the famous nineteenth-century naturalist using text from Darwin's writings and detailed drawings by Sis. **921 DARWIN**

Taylor, Peter Lane. ***The secret of Priest's Grotto : a Holocaust survival story***. Recounts the story of several Jewish families forced to hide in a Ukrainian cave system to escape Nazi persecution. Includes photographs, chronology and interviews with survivors and their family members. **940.53 TAY**

Tomecek, Stephen M. ***What a Great Idea! Inventions that Changed the World***. **609 TOM**

Thimmesh, Catherine. ***Team Moon : how 400,000 people landed Apollo 11 on the moon***. From the engineers to the suit testers, the story of the many people in various professions who worked behind-the-scenes to get Apollo 11 on the moon and safely back is presented through quotes, transcripts, national archives, and NASA photos. **629.454 THI**

Turner, Pamela S. ***Gorilla doctors : saving endangered great apes***. A group of talented veterinarians, hoping to preserve this endangered species, present a study of the effects of human exposure on the mountain gorillas of Rwanda and Uganda. **333.9598 TUR**

Warren, Andrea. ***Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps***. **940.53 WAR**

Winchester, Simon. ***The Day the World Exploded: The Earthshaking Catastrophe at Krakatoa***. Presents the story of the volcanic eruptions that took place on the island of Krakatoa in 1883, killing

thousands of people, destroying the island, and affecting the entire world through the expulsion of smoke and ash in the air. **551.2109 WIN**

List compiled by Diane Linenbroker

Updated: 10/4/2010