



YOUNG ADULT GUIDE TO GOOD READING

The titles in this guide are arranged in the following groups. Within each section there are books about people from a variety of ethnic, national and economic backgrounds in settings around the world. There are fiction and nonfiction books in each group, including autobiography and biography. Many of the authors listed here have written other excellent books, this guide represents only a sampling of the many good books waiting to be read!

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NOVELS

ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Sarah Dessen

Favorite author Sarah Dessen has given us a perfect summer read. Seventeen year old Auden, the daughter of two brilliant over-achieving divorced parents, was always trying to be the perfect daughter until she finally decided to break free and live the life she missed.

THE BOOK THIEF

Markus Zusak

This amazing story follows Leisel as she steals books in Nazi Germany while she and her best friend discover the power of words, language, and friendship. This is a book that you will want to read over and over again.

THE DISREPUTABLE HISTORY OF FRANKIE LANDAU-BANKS

E. Lockhart

Frankie, not one to take no for an answer, is excluded from her boyfriend's all-male secret society. She infiltrates the society and enlivens their mediocre pranks. An entertaining story!

FOREVER IN BLUE

Ann Brashares

According to the publishers, Forever in Blue marks the one last glorious summer for the sisterhood of traveling pants series. Fans of the previous three books will not be disappointed with the strong, satisfying conclusion.

IF I STAY

Gayle Forman

Gayle Forman tells the sad story about a teenage girl who is in a coma following a car accident that killed her parents. She is trying to choose whether to die and be with her family or live and face an unknown future as an orphan. A thought provoking story that will stay with the reader a long time!

MARE'S WAR

Tanita S. Davis

During a cross-country trip, teens Octavia and Teli change from complaining self-absorbed teenagers to observant supportive family members as they listen to their grandmother's stories about growing up black in the 1940's in Alabama and serving in Europe during WWII in the Women's Army Corps. An entertaining read!

MISTIK LAKE

Martha Brooks

A compelling story of three generations of women and the secret they share. A well-told tale of love, loss, and family connections, Mistik Lake demonstrates how far the damage of secrets can reach.

ONCE WAS LOST

Sara Zarr

Being a pastor's daughter, you would think that Samara Taylor would have a close relationship with God and an unshakable faith. But a lot of things in her life have made her a doubter. Sara Zarr gives us a gripping story exposing human weaknesses.

SECRETS OF TRUTH AND BEAUTY

Megan Frazier

Dara Cohen has felt the sting of being overweight for a long time. When the autobiography project crops up her senior year, Dara decides to put herself on display in a bold protest against society's misplaced standards of beauty. But the project only brings Dara headaches. A beautifully written book you won't be able to put down.

SKIN DEEP

E.M. Crane

Winner of the 2006 Delacorte Press Contest for a first young adult novel, Crane has given us a thoughtful, well-paced tale that focuses on 16 year old Andrea Anderson's high school world and all that is going wrong for her.

THE SLEDDING HILL

Chris Crutcher

Chris Crutcher captures exceptionally well the life of a teenager who has more than one conflict occurring at the same time. Crutcher brings up the issues of censorship and who should have the power to decide on what is good and what is bad in teen literature. Definitely a good read!

TAMAR

Mal Peet

Fifteen year old Tamar's grandfather's suicide bewilders her as does the strange collection of things that he has left for her in his apartment. Finding a box of WWII memorabilia, Tamara wonders who her grandfather really was and where she fits in. An extraordinary gripping novel!

TYRELL

Coe Booth

Nothing seems to be going right for 15-year-old Tyrell as he tries to balance the need to take care of his 7-year-old brother and deranged mother while his father is in jail. This masterfully written fast paced novel will take you on a journey through the gritty streets of New York. Booth's story has a strong plot, well developed characters, and is filled with surprising twists and turns.

UNDERCOVER

Beth Kephart

Kephart has written an unusually beautiful book in lyric descriptive prose with occasional poems and quotes. Undercover is very much like the main character, Eliza: quiet, beautiful, artistic and hopeful.

MORE AUTHORS OF EXCELLENT BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

Robert Cormier

Rosa Guy

S.E. Hinton

M.E. Kerr

Norma Fox Mazer

Milton Meltzer

Gary Paulsen

Robert Newton Peck

William Sleator

Cynthia Voigt

Laurence Yep

Jane Yolen

REAL LIFE ISSUES

ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN Sherman Alexie
Arnold Spirit, a Spokane Indian boy, advised by his teacher to leave the reservation school and seek more intellectual stimulation at a nearby all white school discovers that it is filled with racist kids whose mascot is an Indian.

BEATING THE ODDS Mary Ellen Snodgrass
This book profiles 75 courageous and persistent people who have overcome difficult circumstances and gone on to become successful in their field. Hillary Clinton, Mitch Albom, Magic Johnson, and Stephen King are only a few. Beating the Odds promotes respect for diversity, religious differences, and many social issues.

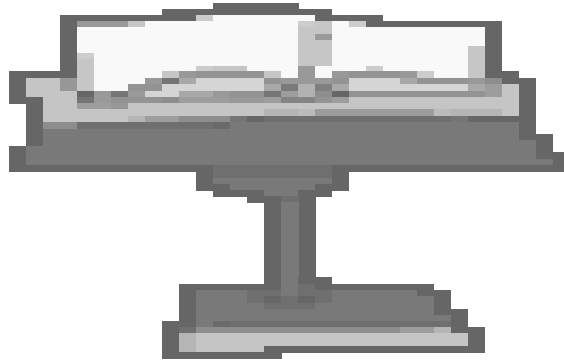
BREATHLESS Jessica Warman
Fifteen year old Katie Kitrell struggles to keep her life in order as she deals with her troubled family, her mentally ill brother, and her boarding school classmates who alternately support and betray one another. Warman's realistic scenes and characters make this a book you don't want to miss.

DAIRY QUEEN Catherine Gilbert Murdock
D.J. is a teenage girl who has grown up in a dairy farming, football loving, non-talking family. When her father is injured, D.J. takes over the family farm and at the same time is asked to train the rival school's quarterback. With humor, sports action and a well-constructed story, this tale has something for everyone.

DOES MY HEAD LOOK BIG IN THIS Randa Abdel-Fattah
"Putting on hijab isn't the end of the story. It's just the beginning of it," says Amal, the narrator. This brief quote just summarizes the powerful lesson of this compelling, funny novel about a teenage Muslim girl in a non-Muslim country.

HATE LIST Jennifer Brown
The school shooting occurred in May, but the story begins in September when Valerie, the shooter's girlfriend who was with him at the time of the incident, returns to school for her senior year. Implicated in the shootings because of the "Hate List" she helped create, would anyone ever trust her again?

MISTER PIP Lloyd Jones
This prize winning novel is about 13-year-old Matilda who is at a loss to understand the violence that has torn apart her tropical island. Her village has lost its teachers and the only white man to stay behind takes over the post as teacher and begins to read to the class from his favorite novel, Charles Dickens' Great Expectations. This is a heartwarming story you will never forget.



RULES OF SURVIVAL

Nancy Werlin

Nancy Werlin writes a powerful novel about three children and their struggle to live normal lives in a household of chaos and abuse. Readers will remember this story long after they have read the book.

SAINT IGGY

K.L. Going

Iggy was lost from the start. Born to a drug addicted mother and an alcoholic father, he has fallen through the cracks and yet he manages to bring a sense of hope to every situation he finds himself in. A heartbreaking read!

SOME GIRLS ARE

Courtney Summers

Courtney Summers gives you a compelling and almost too realistic look into the issue of bullying that goes on in schools across the country today. Regina at one point used to be a part of the fearsome clique but now she has been kicked out and her life is miserable. A powerful novel about a serious issue.

SUDDENLY JEWISH

Barbara Kessel

Barbara Kessel has written an amazing book about individuals who are raised as Gentiles and discover their Jewish roots. In her interviews, she is very non-judgmental and tries to understand how each individual came into contact with their Judaism and their reactions to their new status. A fascinating book!

WAR ON ERROR: REAL STORIES OF AMERICAN MUSLIMS

Melody Moezzi

This collection of 12 short, biographical stories is about young American Muslims of which Moezzi is one. Her funny, endearing, and humble narratives make her storytelling more human and her dedication to activism more admirable.

WINTERGIRLS

Laurie Halse Anderson

Laurie Halse Anderson, author of Speak, has written another compelling story about a very prevalent issue in today's society. Riveting and chilling, Wintergirls is a book about anorexia that is well worth reading.



SPORTS

THE BIG FIELD

Mike Lupica

The Big Field is definitely a book for baseball fans. Fourteen year old Hutch and his team push their way to the finals. Leading up to the final play-off games, he battles a very talented arrogant teammate who is being coached by Hutch's emotionally distant father who can't find the time to show up to see him play. Just how far is Hutch willing to bend to be a good teammate?

BUG BOY

Eric Luper

This fast-paced story set during the Great Depression moves effortlessly between excitement of thoroughbred racing, the despair of extreme poverty, the excesses of abundant wealth, and the seediness of some of the gamblers desperate for money. Caught in the middle and tempted by easy money, Jack tries to stay true to his love of horses and racing. Racing fans and history buffs will enjoy the ride.

EAGLE BLUE

Michael D'Orso

Everyday life in Alaska's bush is tough. The one thing that helps everyone cope with the long winters is high school basketball. D'Orso examines the team dynamics and also focuses on the cultural changes that are taking place as long standing traditions begin to erode. An inspiring but sometimes disturbing portrait of a culture in crisis.

EDENVILLE OWLS

Robert B. Parker

Robert Parker fans will enjoy this novel that combines basketball, mystery and romance. This nostalgic story set in 1945 in a small coastal Massachusetts town will appeal to teenagers who enjoy a thriller with well defined characters.

THE FOOTBALL GAME I'LL NEVER FORGET selected by Chris McDonell

One hundred NFL stars share their most memorable moments in the games they played. What sets this collection apart is that it is not the opinions of the sports writers. The words of the players themselves not only discuss the triumphs, but also reveal the human side of this brutal sport. Some of the stories are about seemingly ordinary games that became extraordinary in the context of the players' lives. A great book!

FOOTBALL GENIUS

Tim Green

Using his own NFL experiences to bring readers behind the scenes, Tim Green tells the story of a 12 year old boy who has a phenomenal gift of being able to predict a football play before it happens. You don't have to be a football fan to enjoy this story.

FOUR DAYS TO GLORY

Mark Kreidler

This interesting book follows two top high school wrestlers and their families through the last year of their high school career in a town where wrestling is more popular than football. A compelling story of athletic sacrifice and success!

GYM CANDY

Carl Deuker

Favorite sports writer, Carl Deuker, takes a realistic look at steroid use in his latest book. High school football player, Mick Johnson, knows that steroids can be dangerous but ambition, competition, and being in the wrong place at the wrong time led to trouble for this talented athlete.

HEART OF A CHAMPION

Carl Deuker

To Seth basketball is the most important thing in the world until his best friend gets caught up in drinking. Deuker's books are always filled with action but they also deal with sensitive situations with strong characters that hold the readers attention to the very end. Heart of Champion is a tale of courage and shows how friends help friends get through tough situations in life.

KEEPER

Mal Peet

Peet weaves magic and mystery in his gripping story about a boy who starts playing soccer in a remote logging camp in the middle of the Amazon jungle and his rise to become one of the greatest goal keepers in the world and a hero in the World Cup. A great read!

THE OFF SEASON

Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Sixteen-year-old D.J. plays varsity football, and not as a kicker but as a line backer. Her entire family eats, sleeps and breathes football, so D.J. is excited about being the first girl linebacker in the state of Wisconsin. Life seems great until numerous problems come her way. Can D.J. handle it all and not disappoint her team? Readers will find themselves rooting for her at every turn in the story!

POP

Gordon Korman

After moving to a new town during the summer, sixteen year old Marcus makes friends with a former pro football player. As the friendship grows closer, Marcus realizes that his new friend has early onset Alzheimers disease. A compelling story on how relationships can impact your life.

SHOOTING STAR

Fred McKissack

Talented but undersize defensive football player Jomo Rogers decides to take steroids that will make him stronger and faster with tragic results for himself, his team, and those he loves. A great sports fiction story!



SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

THE ADORATION OF JENNA FOX

Mary E. Pearson

Seventeen year old Jenna awakes severely injured from a year long coma following a tragic car accident. Her father, a scientist, illegally uses the latest medical technology to help her recover. The details of Jenna's journey back to health unfold in a way that raises important questions about bioethics and trauma. A terrifying yet intriguing book.

BEASTLY

Alex Flinn

Finn's retelling of Beauty and the Beast is a fun read. It is a beautifully written story with a modern twist.

BONESHAKER

Cherie Priest

Cherie Priest takes the reader on a ride in airships and right into the gritty gas filled past of Seattle to uncover a mystery that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

EPIC

Conor Kostick

Because the refugees were fleeing from a world that was on the verge of destruction from warfare, they brought with them one unbreakable law: no violence ever. All conflicts are settled through combat within a computer role-playing game. A fascinating story!

FIRE GRACELING

Kristen Cashore

Both books deal with fantasy and are filled with romance and suspense. The stories take place in adjoining lands with well drawn characters, convincing fantasy elements and gripping adventure stories. This author is a favorite among science fiction/fantasy fans.

THE HAUNTING OF ALAIZABEL CRAY

Chris Wooding

The Haunting of Alaizabel Cray is a masterful gothic thriller that is not for the faint of heart. It is full of dark suspense that will send a chill through your body and make you want to read more.....but not at bedtime.

THE HUNGER GAMES & CATCHING FIRE

Suzanne Collins

Suzanne Collins has created a completely original world and characters in her two science-fiction books. They are well written with exciting plots and bits of well placed humor. Readers will have a hard time putting either one of these books down.

LEVIATHAN

Scott Westerfeld

Readers will be captured from the first page when the world plunges into war in 1914. The conflict between the Cankers, who put their faith in machines, and the Darwinists, whose technology is based on the development of a new species, is an adventure full of non-stop action. Fans will be begging for a sequel.

THE MAZE RUNNER

James Dashner

Sixteen year old Thomas wakes up in the middle of a maze with no memory. In order to escape, he needs to work with the community in which he finds himself. A gripping tale where teenagers live in a world where they need to fight for survival on a daily basis.

MORTAL ENGINES

Philip Reeve

Did you ever wonder what the future would be like when humans reached the most technological devices that they could and with a lust for power so great that they would come close to eradicating all life on earth? Mortal Engines is a story that you must read. Harry Potter fans will love this science fiction book.

POWERS

Ursula Le Guin

This is the third book in a fantasy series by much beloved science fiction/fantasy author, Ursula Le Guin. Like its predecessors, Gifts and Voices, this 500 page epic follows Gavir, a bright young boy who was stolen as a baby and sold into slavery, as he struggles to overcome the injustices in his life. The action is non-stop and the story flows seamlessly as characters move between worlds. A great read for science fiction fans!

UGLIES

Scott Westerfield

In the first of an intriguing new series, Westerfield takes us into a future world where everyone is average looking or ugly until their 16th birthday when they will undergo a compulsory operation that will make them gorgeous. What happens when everyone doesn't go along with the transformation? This is a fascinating science fiction read that incorporates futuristic technologies with how over-valued beauty can be.

THE FOLLOWING SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS HAVE WRITTEN MANY EXCELLENT TALES, INCLUDING TRILOGIES AND SERIES:

Piers Anthony

Issac Asimov

Ray Bradbury

Marion Zimmer Bradley

Terry Brooks

John Christopher

Arthur C. Clarke

Hal Clement

David Eddings

William Gibson

Robert A. Heinlein

Ursula K. Le Guin

Anne McCaffrey

Timothy Zahn



MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

THE CASE AGAINST MY BROTHER

Libby Sternberg

Sternberg has written a riveting mystery with well-developed characters and a suspenseful plot about bigotry and intolerance that took place during a period of history when there was a strong feeling of anti-immigration. The suspense builds throughout the story to an exciting, unsuspected conclusion. An inspiring page turner!

FAKE I.D.

Walter Sorrells

Why are Chass and her mother on the run for so many years? On her 16th birthday, Chass' mother disappears and Chass is convinced that her mother is still alive. Sorrells cleverly sustains suspense throughout the story. A terrific read!

THE LAST CHILD

John Hart

Hart has written a gripping story about a thirteen-year-old boy, Johnny Merrimon, who lost his twin sister to an abduction. In searching for her, what Johnny uncovers sends shock waves through the community and puts his own life in danger.

LAST SHOT: A FINAL FOUR MYSTERY

John Feinstein

Too short for a career in basketball, 13-year-old Stevie Thomas turns to sports writing and wins a writing contest and a chance to attend and report on the NCAA Final Four games in the tournament. Shortly after he arrives, he and a friend stumble upon a dangerous conspiracy to fix the games. Both mystery and sports fans will find enough action in this book to keep them hooked to the very end.

NOTHING TO LOSE

Alex Flinn

Flinn has written an interesting and fast paced story about a 15-year-old boy on the run from an abusive home life. He returns when he learns that his mother is being tried for murdering his cruel stepfather. A gripping story!

THE RECRUIT

Robert Muchamore

This is one of the most recent books in a very popular series by English private investigator, Robert Muchamore. Cherub agents, all under the age of 17, are sent out on missions to spy on terrorists and international drug dealers. A fast-paced action thriller!

WHAT I SAW AND HOW I LIED

Judy Blundell

This National Book Award winner is a thriller that takes place after World War II and is full of mystery, scandal and adventure. A real page turner that will keep you up at night.

SHORT STORIES/POETRY

BROTHERS: 26 STORIES OF LOVE AND RIVALRY

Andrew Blauner, ed.

Moving and refreshing stories by multiple male authors who have had mixed or tension –filled relationships with their brothers. A wonderful read dealing with funny, sad, complex, comforting relationships between brothers.

FAITH AND DOUBT: AN ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

Patrice Vecchione

A great anthology that gathers works from some of the world’s most celebrated poets as they explore the many sides of human faith and doubt. This collection touches on what we believe and sometimes why we don’t.

FOOTBALL’S BEST SHORT STORIES

Twenty-one of America’s best loved writers cover the game of football in all forms: college, professional, amateur and school boy. You will find these stories moving, hilarious, thoughtful and thrilling and they will give you a valuable insight into the roll football occupies in the American way of life.

ON THE FRINGE

On the Fringe is a collection of 11 short stories by well-known YA authors. The authors write about the kids who are geeks, loners, emotionally fragile or unattractive by current standards. This is a great book for anyone who loves comedy, action, tragedy and drama. This book has it all!

OUTSIDE RULES

Claire Robson, ed.

These fourteen stories are about “outside” teens who try to fit in and be independent while moving toward independence. Some stories are written by well-known authors and others by less recognized writers. These are brutally honest stories that reveal the outsider within each of us.

PRETTY MONSTERS

Kelly Link

Through Kelly Link’s imagination, nothing is what it seems and everything deserves a second look. The collection of stories gives the reader a wide array of spooky, ironic and sometimes downright funny stories. You will love this author’s work!

SISTERS: AN ANTHOLOGY

Jan Freeman, ed.

This anthology has a little something for everyone who has a sister or a close friend who is like a sister. The truth about complicated relationships shines through every story.

TELL THE WORLD: TEEN POEMS FROM THE WRITERS CORPS

Through this stunning collection of poetry by teens, the authors tell the world who they are, where they are from, and how they feel. Their words reflect the hopes and dreams of teens everywhere.



HISTORY – FICTION

THE ASTONISHING LIFE OF OCTAVIAN NOTHING, TRAITOR TO THE NATION, VOL. 1 & 2

M.T. Anderson

Various diaries, letters and other manuscripts chronicle the life of Octavian Nothing leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. Historical fiction fans will enjoy Anderson's perspective on American history.

BOUND

Sally Gunning

Gunning's story gives us an engaging look at the New England colonies in the decades before the Revolutionary War. Seven year old Alice Cole and her father were the only two in her family to survive the ocean voyage from England. To pay off the debt of their passage, Alice was given over as an indentured servant. Thus began Alice's new journey that was not always easy.

THE BROTHER'S STORY

Katherine Sturtevant

Set during the Great Frost of 1683-1684 in England, fifteen-year-old Kit and his mentally handicapped twin brother, Christy, face enormous challenges trying to find food and shelter for their mother, younger brother and themselves. Wanting to better himself, Kit makes his way to London but the time comes when he feels he must return because he can no longer ignore his family's problems.

CASSANDRA'S SISTER

Veronica Bennett

Jane Austen fans will love this book. Bennett gives us an insight into what Jane's life may have been like as a teenager. It sheds a new light on the books that Jane wrote. A wonderful read!

CHAINS

Laurie Halse Anderson

In the Spring of 1776, Isabel, a teenage slave and her younger sister, Ruth, are sold to ruthless loyalists in New York City. When faced with the choice of working for or against the British, Isabel chooses to work with anyone who can help her. Anderson makes the New York of the Revolutionary Period come to life through Isabel's daily journey.

COPPER SUN

Sharon Draper

For 15-year-old Amari, life was peaceful and happy in her West African village until she was kidnapped and brought to America as a slave. She meets Polly, an indentured servant and after witnessing a murder, they make a desperate run for freedom. Draper's story reveals the impact of human suffering and exploitation that took place during the time of slavery. A moving note from the author discusses the real places and events on which the story is based. An unforgettable story!

MY MOTHER THE CHEERLEADER

Rob Sharenow

When her mother pulls Louise out of class to protest the forced court-ordered integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960, Louise finds her world turned upside down. This is a great story that will reveal the underlying issues of racism and prejudice in our society. Unfortunately the title is very misleading. An interesting read!

RED GLASS

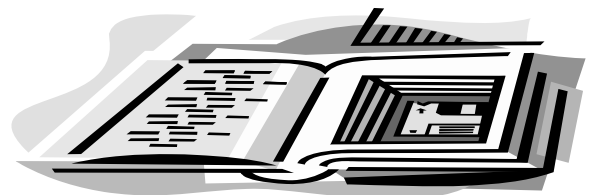
Laura Resau

Laura Resau's beautifully written book is one that will linger in your memory for a long time. It is the story of not-so-brave Sophie who goes on the adventure of her life in Mexico and the dangerous country of Guatemala, finding her courage and love along the way. A realistic look at the problems of immigration.

RED MOON AT SHARPSBURG

Rosemary Wells

Rosemary Wells brings the Civil War era to life in this moving story about India Moody, a 12-year-old southern girl, who observes all the pain, suffering, loss and changes in her life because of the war. This powerful novel is unwavering in its descriptions of war and the devastation it causes, yet it shows the hope and resilience that can follow such a tragedy.



HISTORY – FACT

DENIED, DETAINED, DEPORTED

Ann Bausum

Does America, built by immigrants, have room for more newcomers? Is it fair for Homeland Security to expect individuals to sacrifice their rights? An overview of immigration problems in the past, along with excellent photos, gives the reader a clear look at an issue that is relevant in today's political world.

LIFE OF A NAZI SOLDIER

Cherese Cartlidge

The author describes the Nazi soldier's experience beginning with the rise of the military culture under Hitler and the requirements of universal military service. Cartlidge explains how the German's ideological beliefs and the extremely difficult wartime conditions played a major role in how the soldiers were able to carry out such horrible atrocities. An interesting read!

LITTLE HEATHENS

Mildred Armstrong Kalish

This down-to-earth memoir of growing up on a central Iowa farm in the midst of the Great Depression captures a specific moment in American history in a story both informative and memorable. Kalish recounts what appears to our eyes today as unendurable deprivation. Honest, simple and detailed, this is a refreshing read for anyone who is interested in the struggles of the average American during the Great Depression.

M. L. K.: JOURNEY OF A KING

Tonya Bolden & Bob Adelman

This is a must-read biography about Martin Luther King whose life and good works are celebrated across our country. Beautifully reproduced photos accompanying the text will leave readers with a strong and inspiring sense of the passion and depth of Dr. King's commitment to peace and justice.

THE MYSTERIOUS PRIVATE THOMPSON

Laura Leedy Gansler

Gansler chronicles the intriguing story of the energetic life of Sarah Edwards, a Nova Scotia woman and Civil War soldier, who ran away from home to avoid an arranged marriage and disguised herself as a man to make her way in the world. Edwards effectively concealed her identity as a traveling salesman and later on as a Civil War soldier. A fascinating read!

ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

Charles E. Cobb, Jr.

This guided tour of the Civil Rights Movement is filled with speeches, photographs and maps that give a clear picture of the struggles, triumphs and remarkable acts of resistance to injustice that took place during this period.

A PRISONER IN THE GARDEN

Nelson Mandela Foundation

In this handsomely illustrated book, the foundation writers sketch Mandela's prison experience, his personal life, and his political and philosophical thought with brevity and clarity. Along with the many documents and personal papers, there are stories of people "who have simply felt their lives touched by him."

TASTING THE SKY: A PALESTINIAN CHILDHOOD

Ibtisam Barakat

In this touching memoir, the author describes the hardships her family endured during the Six Day War with Israel in 1967 and then her subsequent existence growing up as a refugee in an occupied homeland. A gripping story!

TEEN VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND: WHO AM I TO YOU

Mahmoud Watad & Leonard Grob

Wise, sad, amusing stories told by Jewish and Arab teenagers will stay with you long after you put the book down. Their words offer insights into not only their lives and experiences but also their hopefulness for a better future when differences are resolved in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE

Donna Getzinger

An informative book on the development of labor regulations following a tragic fire that took the lives of several women early in the 20th century. Interesting accounts from those inside and spectators who observed the tragedy along with the trial that ensued make this a fascinating book not only on labor laws but on the treatment of women in the labor force.

THE ULTIMATE WEAPON

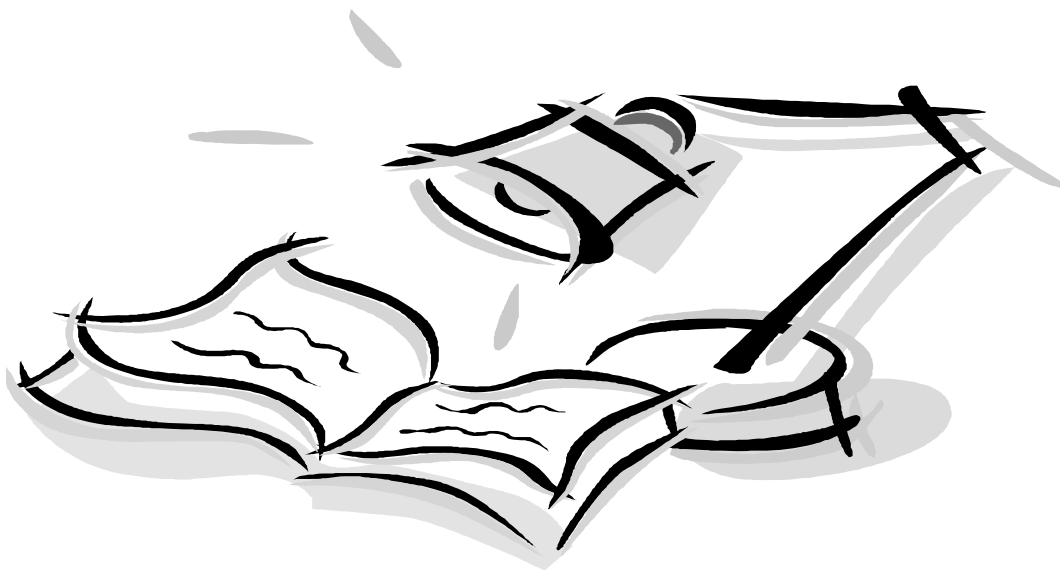
Edward T. Sullivan

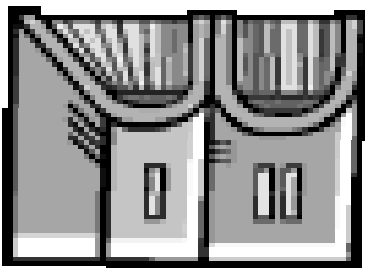
Most histories about the Manhattan Project focus on Robert Oppenheimer and other scientists, but this account successfully condenses the science behind the atomic bomb and ties in the human story behind the project. A gripping drama!

YEARS OF DUST: THE STORY OF THE DUST BOWL

Albert Marrin

This is a haunting story about the “worst environmental disaster” in American history. In the 1930s a dangerous black storm swept through the Great Plains causing enormous destruction. Causes behind the disaster and the impact the Dust Bowl had on the people living in the area are told with clarity and flair. A worthwhile read!





SCIENCE/MATH/NATURE

GONZO GIZMOS

Simon Field

This fascinating book is an informative step by step guide consisting of more than 30 interesting science devices such as making a rotary steam engine from a soda can, a candle, and a few scraps of copper tubing. Along with each project is a side bar that explains “Why does it do that?”

THE GREAT NUMBERS RUMBLE

Cora Lee & Gillian O’Reilly

A great math book! The authors have cleverly illustrated how integral math is to our lives. It is a fun book to read with a real story line.

THE JOY OF PHYSICS

Art Wiggins

Art Wiggins’ ability to explain complex physics in a way in which everyone can understand it is very impressive. Also included in this fine science book are simple experiments to prove the concepts. A great book to alleviate any anxiety over studying physics!

A LION CALLED CHRISTIAN

Anthony Bourke, John Randell, George Adamson

With more than 50 photographs of Christian from cuddly cub in London to magnificent lion in Africa, A Lion Called Christian is a touching and uplifting true story of an indelible human-animal bond.

THE NEW EVERYDAY SCIENCE EXPLAINED

Curt Supplee

This beautifully illustrated and clearly written book guides you entertainingly to a new understanding of the chemical, physical and biological miracles that shape our world.

ONE HUNDRED ESSENTIAL THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW YOU DIDN’T KNOW

John Brown

John Brown’s interesting guide to the confusing world of mathematics helps clarify many of the challenges of life. In the process, the reader becomes aware of the tremendous impact mathematics has on virtually every endeavor.

PHYSICS OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

Michio Kaku

Renowned physicist, Michio Kaku, explores cutting edge physics to investigate how technologies that are currently impossible, such as teleportation and time travel, may become possible. An interesting science book!

SMART SCIENCE TRICKS

Martin Gardner

Every trick in this fascinating book includes a scientific explanation of why and how it works. Why doesn't a balloon burst once pins are placed in it? How can you remove an ice cube from a glass of water with a string? A fun book with great ideas!

THE STORY OF SCIENCE: EINSTEIN ADDS A NEW DIMENSION

Joy Hakims

Joy Hakim's book on modern physics is not only about science, but she writes about how the world was when these scientists were making their discoveries and the struggles they had while they were doing so. A must have for science buffs!

THE TRUTH ABOUT EATING DISORDERS

Gerri Freid Kramer

This straightforward and non-judgmental book includes the most current information available on causes of eating disorders, how to recognize the signs of an eating disorder, and eating habits. A valuable list of hot lines and further resources are also listed in the book.

YOU ARE HERE

Christopher Potter

You Are Here shows the cosmos as it has never been seen before. Potter travels the universe from its formation to its eventual end – while exploring everything in between. Science teacher Jim Kernohan highly recommends this book.



THE ARTS

ART FOR OBAMA

Shepard Fairey and Jennifer Gross

Artists Shepard Fairey and Jennifer Gross compiled a large number of artists in one book, featuring art that varied from street art to knitwear promoting Barack Obama. Never before had a political campaign for the presidency inspired such creative talents of artists, illustrators and graphic designers. Fairey's "Hope" portrait became the face of the campaign. This art book will become a keepsake for many Obama fans.

THE ART OF AVATAR

James Cameron

The Art of Avatar, the companion book to the epic 3-D action adventure film, explores the developmental and conceptual art used by the creative team to create the original world of Avatar. With over 100 exclusive full-color images, this book reveals the process behind the set designs for the imaginative scenes and the fantastical creatures. Interviews with the art directors, visual effects designers, animators, costume designers, and creature makers bring insight into this creative process.

100 DAYS IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Nick Yapp

The reader will be treated to a compelling visual journey of defining moments for the past 150 years. Accompanying the photos are firsthand journal excerpts and the photographer's on site notes. A remarkable book!

PUPPETRY: A WORLD HISTORY

Eileen Blumenthal

A beautiful book filled with vivid color photographs that bring to life hundreds of puppets of all types. Through her narrative, Blumenthal takes the reader through a history of the puppet world from prehistoric times to the Tony winning Broadway hit, Avenue Q.

STITCHES

David Small

David Small's graphic memoir tells a heart-wrenching and emotional story of growing up in an abusive home. Small's skillful artistic talent captured the facial expressions and body language in this powerful autobiographical story. This profound story could only be told effectively as a graphic memoir. A National Book Award Finalist!

VINCENT VAN GOGH: Portrait of an artist

Jan Greenberg & Sandra Jordan

Van Gogh's letters have been excerpted and set side-by-side with more than 250 of his drawings and paintings. It is very interesting to read what he wrote about his works as he did them. A beautiful book!

WALT DISNEY: CONVERSATIONS

edited by Kathy Merlock Jackson

Kathy Jackson explores the man behind the Magic Kingdom. These interviews with Walt Disney give us an insight into the life, career and talent of this unusual man.



BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

AMELIA EARHART

Susan Wels

This is not your usual biography. The reader comes away with a sense of Amelia's inner life and what drove her to accomplish the impossible. Full of detail, the book has never-before-seen pictures and new information about a woman whose fate still remains a mystery to this day.

THE BITE OF THE MANGO

Mariatu Kamara

A courageous biography by a woman from Sierra Leone who at the age of twelve was tortured by child soldiers and lost both of her hands. After a period of time spent in refugee camps and begging in Freetown, she eventually settled in Toronto where she was able to put her life back together.

THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND

William Kamkwamba and Bryan Bealer

After barely surviving a famine in his village in South Africa, fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba was determined to make life better for himself and his family. Reading every science book he could find and collecting scrap parts around his village, he was able to build a windmill that greatly improved life for his family and his neighbors. A true story about tenacity!

CHINESE CINDERELLA

Adeline Yen Mah

Totally captivating and simply written, Mah's painful story is about an unwanted child in upper-class 1940's China. Blamed for the loss of her mother, who died shortly after giving birth to her, Mah is an outcast in her own family. This memoir is hard to put down.

DOUBLE TAKE

Kevin Michael Connolly

Photographer, champion skier and skateboarder, Connolly has been stared at most of his life because he accomplished these feats with no legs. Born without them, the positive support he received from his family inspired him to meet adversity head on. An inspiring memoir!

ELLA FITZGERALD

Tanya Lee Stones

Ella Fitzgerald, the first lady of song, earned this title by travelling almost non-stop for over fifty years, winning thirteen Grammys and recording album after album. A private person who carefully guarded details that made up her life, Stone's research reveals a hardworking Ella who devoted her life to developing and sharing her gift with the world. Racism the singer encountered while touring in the South deepens this profile. A fascinating read!

GENIUS OF COMMON SENSE

Glenna Lang & Marjory Wunsch

Jane Jacobs was a woman who was brought up during the Depression and never attended college, yet her observations, determination and independence single-handedly changed the way Americans viewed their cities. A lively biography of a rebel activist!

I AM SCOUT

Charles Shields

This is a must read for anyone who read To Kill a Mockingbird and is curious about the novel and the author. Well researched and well written, Shields covers Harper Lee's fascinating life from her girlhood as a tomboy to her days as a struggling writer in New York City. An interesting read!

THE RISE AND FALL OF SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY

James Giblin

Well written and very informative, James Giblin constructs a portrait of Joe McCarthy who was one of the most polarizing and controversial figures in American politics. McCarthy's use of intimidation and smear tactics gained enormous political power and damaged innocent people and organizations. Giblin's biography is well-balanced and unbiased. An interesting read!



OTHER CULTURES

CHINA

Fiction: MOON OPERA

Xiao Yanqiu

Twenty years after a shameful exit from the stage and the closing of the opera, Xiao Yanqiu is given a fresh start to play the lead role in The Moon Opera. The story takes you behind the scenes into the world of Peking opera and the clash between art and money in the Chinese culture. Both a sad and lovely story!

Fiction: PEARL OF CHINA

Anchee Min

This is the fictionalized story of Pearl S. Buck's life in China told through the eyes of a lifetime Chinese friend. Anchee Min gives us a look inside the day-to-day life of a small Chinese village from the early 1900's through the end of Mao's Cultural Revolution. An amazing story!

Non-Fiction: THE BITTER SEA

Charles Li

Charles Li tells his personal story of growing up in a very unusual Chinese family during the turbulent times of World War II and the Chinese civil war that followed. A riveting, fast paced, well-written story!

Non-Fiction: CHINA: LAND OF DRAGONS AND EMPERORS

Adeline Yen Mah

This book not only provides insight into China's rich history, but also offers a glimpse of its traditions and beliefs such as why the 2008 Beijing Olympics opened on 8/8/08 at 8:00 p.m.

JAPAN

Fiction: BREAKING THE TONGUE

Vyvyane Loh

Loh has written an interesting account of the fall of Singapore during the Japanese invasion.

Fiction: SAMURAI SHORTSTOP

Alan Gratz

While attending a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo receives a Western education along with the traditional Samurai training which has a profound effect on his baseball game and his relationship with his father. Trying to find a way to bridge both ways of life is quite a challenge for Toyo. An excellent read!

Non-Fiction: THE GIRL WITH THE WHITE FLAG

Tomiko Higa

How a young seven-year-old girl can survive on her own on the battlefields of war-torn Okinawa in 1945 is absolutely astonishing. This memoir vividly details the human side of the civilian Okinawans. A heart-warming story of triumph in the midst of great tragedy.

KOREA

Fiction: JIA: A NOVEL OF NORTH KOREA

Hyejin Kim

Jia is a haunting tale that follows the female protagonist through tumultuous times in North Korea and China.

Non-Fiction: NOTHING TO ENVY

Barbara Demick

This is a fascinating look at the lives of six defectors from the repressive totalitarian regime of the Republic of North Korea.

MIDDLE EAST

Fiction: FIGS AND FATE

Ella Marston

This is a collection of five stories portraying Arab life in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

Fiction: SANTA CLAUS IN BAGDAD AND OTHER STORIES ABOUT TEENS IN THE ARAB WORLD

Ella Marston

Although fictional, these stories about teens in the Arab world express the real thoughts and beliefs of many Arabic teens in the modern world.

Non-Fiction: TASTING THE SKY

Ibtisam Barakat

In the eloquent and moving memoir, Barakat, a Palestinian, recalls life during The Six Day War and its aftermath.

AFRICA

Fiction: THE CAMEL BOOKMOBILE

Masha Hamilton

This is a wonderful story about a young American woman who leaves her everyday life behind to bring the joy of reading to a small African village.

Fiction: THE POWER OF ONE

Bryce Courtenay

A white British boy born in South Africa during World War II survives an abusive boarding school and finds success in life and in the boxing ring.

Non-Fiction: THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND

William Kamkwamba

After barely surviving a famine in Malawi, fourteen-year-old William was determined to find a way to make life better for himself and his family. Collecting discarded motor parts, PVC pipe and old bicycle wheels, he was able to produce a windmill that greatly improved life for the people in his village.

Non-Fiction: NELSON MANDELA: A LIFE IN PHOTOGRAPHS David Elliot Cohen

Thoughtful essays and key Mandela speeches accompany a series of photographs at different stages in Mandela's life. A wonderful book!

Non-Fiction: When a Crocodile Eats the Sun

Peter Godwin

Peter Godwin, son of white British parents, has written a superb memoir about growing up in Africa under the turbulent reign of Mugabe.

SOUTH AMERICA

Fiction: EXPOSURE

Mal Peet

Exposure reworks Shakespeare's Othello in a modern day South American soccer context.

Fiction: FINDING MIRACLES

Julia Alvarez

Unbeknown to her high school friends, Millie was adopted from a war-torn South American island as a young child. When a new student from that same island arrives at her school, Millie becomes interested in her past and returns to her homeland where recent elections ended a long period of harsh restrictions. Alvarez captures a girl torn between cultures, languages and her past.



PAST FAVORITES

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES – Lucy Maud Montgomery
THE BEAN TREES – Barbara Kingsolver
THE CAY – Theodore Taylor
THE CHOCOLATE WAR – Robert Cormier
THE CONTENDER – Robert Lipsyte
DEATH BE NOT PROUD – John Gunther
DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
DICEY’S SONG – Cynthia Voigt
FAHRENHEIT 451- Ray Bradbury
GATHERING BLUE – Lois Lowry
THE GIRL WHO LOVED TOM GORDON – Stephen King
THE GIVER – Lois Lowry
THE GOATS – Brock Cole
HATCHET – Gary Paulsen
THE HOBBIT – J.R.R. Tolkein
LITTLE WOMEN – Louisa May Alcott
THE LOVELY BONES – Alice Sebold
ON THE DEVIL’S COURT – Carl Deuker
THE OUTSIDERS – S.E. Hinton
PAINTING OF THE BLACK – Carl Deuker
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE – Jane Austen
THE PROMISE – Chaim Potok
REBECCA – Daphne du Maurier
REDWALL – Brian Jacques
RULE OF THE BONE – Russell Banks
THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES – Sue Monk Kidd
A SEPARATE PEACE – John Knowles
SO FAR FROM THE BAMBOO GROVE – Yoko Kawashima Watkins
THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD – Zora Neale Hurston
THIS BOY’S LIFE – Tobias Wolff
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – Harper Lee
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN – Betty Smith
A WRINKLE IN TIME – Madeleine L’Engle

