

# 2023 Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List



The purpose of the Texas Topaz Reading List is to provide children, teens, and adults with recommended nonfiction titles that stimulate reading for pleasure and personal learning. It is intended for recreational reading and is not designed to support any particular curriculum. Due to the diversity in age range and topics, Texas librarians should consider titles on this list in accordance with their own local collection development policies.

(\*) Denotes a unanimous recommendation by the Texas Topaz Committee.

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## Titles Recommended for Kids & Teens

### GRADES K-2

*A Dinosaur Named Ruth: How Ruth Mason Discovered Fossils in Her Own Backyard* by Julia Lyon, illustrated by Alexandra Bye (Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2021)

*A History of Underwear with Professor Chicken* by Hannah Holt, illustrated by Korwin Briggs (Roaring Brook Press, 2022)

\**Action! How Movies Began* by Meghan McCarthy (A Paula Wiseman Book, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2022)

*Alice Waters Cooks Up a Food Revolution* by Diane Stanley, illustrated by Jessie Hartland (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2022)

\**Because Claudette* by Tracey Baptiste, illustrated by Tonya Engel (Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2022)

*Born Hungry: Julia Child Becomes “the French Chef”* by Alex Prud'homme, illustrated by Sarah Green (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, 2022)

*Celia Planted a Garden: The Story of Celia Thaxter and Her Island Garden* by Phyllis Root and Gary D. Schmidt, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Candlewick Press, 2022)

*Covered in Color: Christo & Jeanne-Claude's Fabrics of Freedom* by Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Susanna Chapman (Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2022)

*Dig, Dance, Dive: How Birds Move to Survive* by Etta Kaner, illustrated by June Steube (Owlkids Books, 2022)

*Ducks Overboard! A True Story of Plastic in Our Oceans* by Markus Motum (Candlewick Press, 2021)

*Happy Sloth Day!* by April Pulley Sayre with Jeff Sayre (Beach Lane Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2022)

*\*I Am Ruby Bridges* by Ruby Bridges, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith (Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2022)

*If You Want a Friend in Washington: Wacky, Wild & Wonderful Presidential Pets* by Erin McGill (Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2020)

*Nina, a story of Nina Simone* by Traci N. Todd, illustrated by Christian Robinson (G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2021)

*Pizza! A Slice of History* by Greg Pizzoli (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2022)

*Plants on the Move* by Émilie Vast (Charlesbridge, 2021)

*Solitary Animals: Introverts of the Wild* by Joshua David Stein, illustrated by Dominique Ramsey (Rise x Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2022)

*The Astronomer Who Questioned Everything: The Story of Maria Mitchell* by Laura Alary, illustrated by Ellen Rooney (Kids Can Press, 2022)

*The Goldilocks Zone: Real Facts About Outer Space* by Drew Sheneman (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

*The Gravity Tree: The True Story of a Tree That Inspired the World* by Anna Crowley Redding, illustrated by Yas Imamura (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

*The Message: The Extraordinary Journey of an Ordinary Text Message* by Michael Emberley (A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2021)

*The Mother of a Movement: Jeanne Manford Ally, Activist, and Co-Founder of PFLAG* by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Sam Kalda (Magination Press, an imprint of American Psychological Association, 2022)

*\*The Only Woman in the Photo: Frances Perkins & her New Deal for America* by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Alexandra Bye (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2020)

*\*The Strangest Thing in the Sea: And Other Curious Creatures of the Deep* by Rachel Poliquin, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler (Kids Can Press, 2021)

*We Are the Supremes* by Zoë Tucker, illustrated by Salini Perera (Wide Eyed Editions, an imprint of The Quarto Group, 2021)

*Where Butterflies Fill the Sky: A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home* by Zahra Marwan (Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2022)

**GRADES 3-5**

*\*A Rose Named Peace: How Francis Meilland Created a Flower of Hope for a World at War* by Barbara Carroll Roberts, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline (Candlewick Press, 2022)

*Africa, Amazing Africa* by Atinuke, illustrated Mouni Feddag (Candlewick Press, 2021)

*Because of You, John Lewis: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Keith Henry Brown (Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2022)

*\*Blips on a Screen: How Ralph Baer Invented TV Video Gaming and Launched a Worldwide Obsession* by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Zachariah Ohora (Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2022)

*\*Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky* by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, illustrated by Daniel Minter (Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2022)

*\*Cultured Donuts: Take a Bite Out of Art History* by Chloe Tyler (Flowerpot Press, 2022)

*Dazzlin' Dolly: The Songwriting, Hit-Singing, Guitar-Picking Dolly Parton* by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, 2022)

*Infinity: Figuring Out Forever* by Sarah C. Campbell (Astra Young Readers, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, 2022)

*iMambo Mucho Mambo! The Dance that Crossed Color Lines* by Dean Robbins, illustrated by Eric Velasquez (Candlewick Press, 2021)

*\*Packing for Mars for Kids* by Mary Roach (Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton & Company, 2022)

*\*Rescuing Titanic: A True Story of Quiet Bravery in the North Atlantic* by Flora Delargy (Wide Eyed Editions, an imprint of The Quarto Group, 2021)

*Road Trip! Camping with the Four Vagabonds: Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs* by Claudia Friddell, illustrated by Jeremy Holmes (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, 2022)

*Sanctuary: Kip Tiernan and Rosie's Place, the Nation's First Shelter for Women* by Christine McDonnell, illustrated by Victoria Tentler-Krylov (Candlewick Press, 2022)

*Song for Jimi: The Story of Guitar Legend Jimi Hendrix* by Charles R. Smith Jr., illustrated by Edel Rodriguez (Neal Porter Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2021)

*The Deadliest Diseases Then and Now* by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic Focus, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2021)

*To The Front! Clara Barton Braves the Battle of Antietam* by Claudia Friddell, illustrated by Christopher Cyr (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, 2022)

*Washed Ashore Making Art from Ocean Plastic* by Kelly Crull (Millbrook Press, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., 2022)

*Yes We Will: Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country* by Kelly Yang, illustrated by Nabi H. Ali, Fahmida Azim, Marcos Chin, et al. (Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2022)

*Your Place in the Universe* by Jason Chin (Neal Porter Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2020)

## **GRADES 6-8**

*\*Ambushed! The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield* by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, 2021)

*\*Button Pusher* by Tyler Page (First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, 2022)

*Duet: Our Journey in Song with the Northern Mockingbird* by Phillip Hoose (Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC, 2022)

*\*Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin (Roaring Brook Press, 2021)

*How to Build a Human In Seven Evolutionary Steps* by Pamela S. Turner, illustrated by John Gurche (Charlesbridge, 2022)

*Lady Icarus: Balloonomania and the Brief, Bold Life of Sophie Blanchard* by Deborah Noyes (Random House Studio, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2022)

*Master of His Fate: Roosevelt's Rise from Polio to the Presidency* by James Tobin (Christy Ottaviano Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company, 2021)

*Modern Art Explorer* by Alice Harman, illustrated by Serge Bloch (Thames & Hudson Ltd, 2020)

*Snoozefest: The Surprising Science of Sleep* by Tanya Lloyd Kyi, illustrated by Valéry Goulet (Kids Can Press, 2021)

*Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler* by Ibi Zoboi (Dutton Children's Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2022)

*The Genius Under the Table: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain* by Eugene Yelchin (Candlewick Press, 2021)

*The Hanmoji Handbook: Your Guide to the Chinese Language through Emoji* by Jason Li, An Xiao Mina, and Jennifer 8. Lee (MiTeen Press, an imprint of Candlewick Press, 2022)

*The Woman Who Split the Atom: The Life of Lise Meitner* by Marissa Moss (Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2022)

*Yummy: A History of Desserts* by Victoria Grace Elliott (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2021)

## **GRADES 9-12**

*\*Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* by Brandy Colbert (Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

*Conspiracy: Nixon, Watergate, and Democracy's Defenders* by P. O'Connell Pearson (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2020)

*I Could Not Do Otherwise: The Remarkable Life of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker* by Sara Latta (Zest Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., 2022)

*\*Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI - Adapted for Young Readers* by David Grann (Crown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2021)

*\*Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime* by Candace Fleming (Anne Schwartz Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2022)

*Punching Bag* by Rex Ogle (Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton & Company, 2021)

*\*The Race of the Century: The Battle to Break the Four-Minute Mile* by Neal Bascomb (Scholastic Focus, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2022)

*\*The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh* by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2020)

*Unequal: A Story of America* by Michael Eric Dyson and Marc Favreau (Little, Brown and Company, 2022)

*\*Victory. Stand! Raising My Fist for Justice* by Tommie Smith, Derrick Barnes, and Dawud Anyabwile (Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton & Company, 2022)

## ADULT FOR YOUNG ADULT

*Deaf Utopia: A Memoir and a Love Letter to a Way of Life* by Nyle DiMarco with Robert Siebert (William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2022)

*Letters to a Young Athlete* by Chris Bosh (Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2021)

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## Titles Recommended for Adults

(^) Denotes an enthusiastic recommendation for the audiobook format by the Texas Topaz Adult Sub-Committee.

*Asian American Histories of the United States* by Catherine Ceniza Choy (Beacon Press, 2022)

\**Being Seen: One Deafblind Woman's Fight to End Ableism* by Elsa Sjunneson (Tiller Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2021)

*Bitch: On the Female of the Species* by Lucy Cooke (Basic Books, an imprint of Perseus Books, 2022)

^*Broken Horses: A Memoir* by Brandi Carlile (Crown, an imprint of Random House, 2021)

\**Corrections in Ink* by Keri Blakinger (St. Martin's Press, an imprint of St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2022)

*Crying in the Bathroom: A Memoir* by Erika L. Sánchez (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2022)

\**Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell (HarperWave, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

\**Deaf Utopia: A Memoir and a Love Letter to a Way of Life* by Nyle DiMarco with Robert Siebert (William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2022)



*Downton Shabby: One American's Ultimate DIY Adventure Restoring His Family's English Castle* by Hopwood DePree (William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2022)

*Fly Girl: A Memoir* by Ann Hood (W. W. Norton & Company, 2022)

*Funny Farm: My Unexpected Life with 600 Rescue Animals* by Laurie Zaleski (St. Martin's Press, an imprint of St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2021)

\**Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach (W. W. Norton & Company, 2021)

*Home Made: A Story of Grief, Groceries, Showing Up -- and What We Make When We Make Dinner* by Liz Hauck (The Dial Press, an imprint of Random House, 2021)

\**How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith (Little, Brown and Company, 2021)

\**I'm Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy (Simon & Schuster, 2022)

\**Paper Bullets: Two Women Who Risked Their Lives to Defy the Nazis* by Jeffrey H. Jackson (Algonquin Books, 2020)

\**Sandy Hook: An American Tragedy and the Battle for Truth* by Elizabeth Williamson (Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2022)

*Seek You: A Journey Through American Loneliness* by Kristen Radtke (Pantheon Books, 2021)

^*She Memes Well: Essays* by Quinta Brunson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2021)

*Slaying the Dragon: A Secret History of Dungeons & Dragons* by Ben Riggs (St. Martin's Press, an imprint of St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2022)

*The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah-Jones, creator and editor (One World, an imprint of Random House, 2021)

*The Book of Hope : A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson (Celadon Books, 2021)

*The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster, 2021)

\**The Facemaker: A Visionary Surgeon's Battle to Mend the Disfigured Soldiers of World War I* by Lindsey Fitzharris (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022)

\**The Fishermen and the Dragon: Fear, Greed, and a Fight for Justice on the Gulf Coast* by Kirk Wallace Johnson (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2022)

*The Joy of Sweat: The Strange Science of Perspiration* by Sarah Everts (W. W. Norton & Company, 2021)

*The Last Days of the Dinosaurs: An Asteroid, Extinction, and the Beginning of Our World* by Riley Black (St. Martin's Press, an imprint of St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2022)

\**The Other Dr. Gilmer: Two Men, a Murder, and an Unlikely Fight for Justice* by Benjamin Gilmer (Ballantine Books, an imprint of Random House, 2022)

*The Puzzler: One Man's Quest to Solve the Most Baffling Puzzles Ever, from Crosswords to Jigsaws to the Meaning of Life* by A. J. Jacobs (Crown, an imprint of Random House, 2022)

*The Quiet Zone: Unraveling the Mystery of a Town Suspended in Silence* by Stephen Kurczy (Dey St., an imprint of William Morrow, 2021)

*The Smallest Lights in the Universe: A Memoir* by Sara Seager (Crown, an imprint of Random House, 2020)

\*^ *The Speckled Beauty: A Dog and His People* by Rick Bragg (Alfred A. Knopf, 2021)

*The Trayvon Generation* by Elizabeth Alexander (Grand Central Publishing, 2022)

*The Vanished Collection* by Pauline Baer de Perignon, translation by Natasha Lehrer  
(New Vessel Press, 2022)

\**Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders* by Kathryn Miles  
(Algonquin Books, 2022)

*Trejo: My Life of Crime, Redemption, and Hollywood* by Danny Trejo with Donal Logue  
(Atria Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2021)

\*^ *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism* by Amber  
Ruffin and Lacey Lamar (Grand Central Publishing, 2021)