

2022 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.

Titles Recommended for Kids & Teens

GRADES K-2

13 Ways to Eat a Fly by Sue Heavenrich, illustrated by David Clark (Charlesbridge, 2021)

**A Girl Named Rosita--The Story of Rita Moreno: Actor, Singer, Dancer, Trailblazer!* by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Leo Espinosa (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2020)

A Life Electric: The Story of Nikola Tesla by Azadeh Westergaard, illustrated by Júlia Sardà (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

**Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2020)

An Equal Shot: How the Law Title IX Changed America by Helaine Becker, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk (Christy Ottaviano Books, an imprint of Henry Holt & Company, 2021)

**Areli is a Dreamer: A True Story by Areli Morales, a DACA Recipient* by Areli Morales, illustrated by Luisa Uribe (Random House Studio, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

**Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals* by Katy S. Duffield, illustrated by Mike Orodán (Beach Lane Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2020)

Cubs in the Tub: The True Story of the Bronx Zoo's First Woman Zookeeper by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Julie Downing (Neal Porter Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2020)

Dark Was the Night: Blind Willie Johnson's Journey to the Stars by Gary Golio, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2020)

**Does It Fart?: A Kid's Guide to the Gas Animals Pass* by Nick Caruso & Dani Rabaiotti, illustrated by Alex G. Griffiths (Little, Brown & Company, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, 2019)

Drawing on Walls: A Story of Keith Haring by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Josh Cochran (Enchanted Lion Books, 2020)

Flying High: The Story of Gymnastics Champion Simone Biles by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Ebony Glenn (Henry Holt & Company, 2020)

Grace Banker and Her Hello Girls Answer the Call: The Heroic Story of WWI Telephone Operators by Claudia Friddell, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills & Kane, 2021)

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Neal Porter Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2020)

**In My Mosque* by M.O. Yuksel, illustrated by Hatem Aly (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

**Indelible Ann: The Larger-Than-Life Story of Governor Ann Richards* by Meghan P. Browne, illustrated by Carlynn Whitt (Random House Studio, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

Just You and Me: Remarkable Relationships in the Wild by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Alexander Vidal (Beach Lane Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2021)

Keeping the City Going, written and illustrated by Brian Floca (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2021)

Lady Bird Johnson, That's Who!: The Story of a Cleaner and Greener America by Tracy Nelson Maurer, illustrated by Ginnie Hsu (Henry Holt & Company, 2021)

Mars Is: Stark Slopes, Silvery Snow, and Startling Surprises by Suzanne Slade (Peachtree Publishing, 2021)

Masters of Disguise: Camouflaging Creatures & Magnificent Mimics, written and illustrated by Marc Martin (Candlewick Studio, an imprint of Candlewick Press, 2021)

Nano: The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small by Jess Wade, illustrated by Melissa Castrillón (Candlewick Press, 2021)

Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued by Peter Sís (Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W.W. Norton & Company, 2021)

**Ocean! Waves for All* by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by David Litchfield (Henry Holt & Company, 2020)

**Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch* by Heidi Tyline King, illustrated by Ekoa Holmes (G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

**Shirley Chisholm is a Verb* by Veronica Chambers, illustrated by Rachelle Baker (Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

**Slow Down: 50 Mindful Moments in Nature* by Rachel Williams, illustrated by Freya Hartas (Magic Cat Publishing, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2020)

Small Room, Big Dreams: The Journey of Julián and Joaquín Castro by Monica Brown, illustrated by Mirelle Ortega (Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

The Bug Girl: A True Story by Sophia Spencer with Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Kerascoët (Schwartz & Wade Books, and imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

The Cat Man of Aleppo by Irene Latham & Karim Shamsi-Basha, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu (G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

**The Highest Tribute: Thurgood Marshall's Life, Leadership, and Legacy* by Kekla Magoon, illustrated by Laura Freeman (Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art by Cynthia Levinson, illustrated by Evan Turk (Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2021)

There Goes Patti McGee!: The Story of the First Woman's National Skateboard Champion by Tootie Nienow, illustrated by Erika Medina (Farrar, Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers, 2021)

GRADES 3-5

A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu, and You by Mike Barfield, illustrated by Jess Bradley (Aladdin, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2021)

A Shot in the Arm! (Big Ideas that Changed the World) by Don Brown (Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2021)

**Bartali's Bicycle: The True Story of Gino Bartali, Italy's Secret Hero* by Megan Hoyt, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno (Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

**Black Heroes of the Wild West* by James Otis Smith (TOON Books, an imprint of RAW Junior LLC, 2020)

**Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle (Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W.W. Norton & Company, 2019)

Fungarium (Welcome to the Museum) by Esther Gaya, illustrated by Katie Scott (Big Picture Press, an imprint of Candlewick Press, 2021)

Galloping Gertie: The True Story of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge Collapse by Amanda Abler, illustrated by Levi Hastings (Little Bigfoot, an imprint of Sasquatch Books, 2021)

Girl on a Motorcycle by Amy Novesky, illustrated by Julie Morstad (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

**Hear My Voice: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States* compiled by Warren Binford for Project Amplify (Workman Publishing, 2021)

Horse Power: How Horses Changed the World by Jennifer Thermes (Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2021)

Immigrant Architect: Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream by Berta de Miguel & Kent Diebolt, illustrated by Virginia Lorente (Tilbury House Publishers, 2019)

**Just Being Dali: The Story of Artist Salvador Dali* by Amy Guglielmo, illustrated by Brett Helquist (G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

**King of Ragtime: The Story of Scott Joplin*, written and illustrated by Stephen Costanza (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2021)

Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers by Juliet Menéndez (Henry Holt & Company, 2021)

Molly and the Mathematical Mysteries: Ten Interactive Adventures in Mathematical Wonderland by Eugenia Cheng, illustrated by Aleksandra Artymowska (Big Picture Press, an imprint of Candlewick Press, 2021)

Orchestra by Avalon Nuovo, illustrated by David Doran (Flying Eye Books, an imprint of Nobrow, 2019)

**The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field* by Scott Riley, illustrated by Nguyen Quang & Kim Lien (Millbrook Press, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, 2021)

**The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem* by Colleen Paeff, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2021)

**Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* by Jeff Gottesfeld, illustrated by Matt Tavares (Candlewick Press, 2021)

Escape at 10,000 Feet: D.B. Cooper and the Missing Money (Unsolved Case Files), written and illustrated by Tom Sullivan (Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

We Are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac (Charlesbridge, 2021)

GRADES 6-8

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat (Candlewick Press, 2020)

Bad Boys of Fashion: Style Rebels and Renegades Through the Ages by Jennifer Croll, illustrated by Aneta Pacholska (Annick Press, 2019)

**Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease* by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills & Kane, 2020)

Channel Kindness: Stories of Kindness and Community by the Born This Way Foundation Reporters with Lady Gaga (Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers, 2020)

Drawn Across Borders: True Stories of Human Migration, written and illustrated by George Butler (Candlewick Studio, an imprint of Candlewick Press, 2021)

Dude Perfect: 101 Tricks, Tips, and Cool Stuff by Dude Perfect (Thomas Nelson, 2021)

Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood by Gary Paulsen (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers, 2021)

In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years After the 9/11 Attacks, written and illustrated by Don Brown (Etch, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2021)

Redbone: The True Story of a Native American Rock Band by Christian Staebler & Sonia Paoloni, illustrated by Thibault Balahy (IDW Publishing, 2020)

**The Power of Style: How Fashion and Beauty Are Being Used to Reclaim Cultures* by Christian Allaire (Annick Press, 2021)

GRADES 9-12

Apple: Skin to the Core by Eric Gansworth (Levine Querido, 2020)

**Banned Book Club* by Kim Hyun Sook & Ryan Estrada, illustrated by Hyung-Ju Ko (Iron Circus Comics, 2020)

Body Talk: 37 Voices Explore Our Radical Anatomy, edited by Kelly Jensen (Algonquin Young Readers, an imprint of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2020)

Can't Stop Won't Stop: A Hip-Hop History (Young Adult Edition) by Jeff Chang & Dave "Davey D" Cook (Wednesday Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Publishing, 2021)

**Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask: Young Readers Edition* by Anton Treuer (Levine Querido, 2021)

Girlhood: Teens Around the World in Their Own Voices by Masuma Ahuja (Algonquin Young Readers, an imprint of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2021)

Into the Streets: A Young Person's Visual History of Protest in the United States by Marke Bieschke (Zest Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, 2020)

Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio by Derf Backderf (Abrams ComicArts, an imprint of ABRAMS, 2020)

Ms. Gloria Steinem: A Life by Winifred Conkling (Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers, 2020)

Notes From a Young Black Chef: A Memoir (Adapted for Young Adults) by Kwame Onwuachi with Joshua David Stein (Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2021)

What Linnaeus Saw: A Scientist's Quest to Name Every Living Thing by Karen Magnuson Beil (Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W.W. Norton & Company, 2019)

**Year of the Rabbit* by Tian Veasna, translation by Helge Dascher (Drawn & Quarterly, 2019)

ADULT FOR YOUNG ADULT

Crying in H Mart: A Memoir by Michelle Zauner (Alfred A. Knopf, 2021)

**She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar (37 Ink, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2019)

The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet by John Green (Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

**The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border* by Rosayra Pablo Cruz & Julie Schwieter Collazo (HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2020)

**You Will Get Through This Night: A Practical Mental Health Guide* by Daniel Howell (Dey Street Books, an imprint of William Morrow, 2021)

Titles Recommended for Adults

999: The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz by Heather Dune Macadam (Citadel Press Books, 2019)

A Farewell to Gabo and Mercedes: A Son's Memoir of Gabriel García Márquez and Mercedes Barcha by Rodrigo Garcia (HarperVia, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

A Furious Sky: The Five-Hundred-Year History of America's Hurricanes by Eric Jay Dolin (Liveright Publishing, an imprint of W.W. Norton & Company, 2020)

A Human Algorithm: How Artificial Intelligence is Redefining Who We Are by Flynn Coleman (Counterpoint Press, 2019)

Bag Man: The Wild Crimes, Audacious Cover-up, & Spectacular Downfall of a Brazen Crook in the White House by Rachel Maddow & Michael Yarvitz (Crown Publishing, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

Bee People and The Bugs They Love by Frank Mortimer (Citadel Press, 2020)

Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice by Yusef Salaam (Grand Central Publishing, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, 2021)

**Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted* by Suleika Jaouad (Random House, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

Broken (In the Best Possible Way) by Jenny Lawson (Henry Holt & Company, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers, 2021)

Chasing the Thrill: Obsession, Death, and Glory in America's Most Extraordinary Treasure Hunt by Daniel Barbarisi (Alfred A. Knopf, 2021)

**Crying in H Mart: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner (Alfred A. Knopf, 2021)

Dolly Parton, Songteller: My Life in Lyrics by Dolly Parton with Robert K. Oermann (Chronicle Books, 2020)

Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty by Patrick Radden Keefe (Doubleday, 2021)

Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth by Bryan Burrough, Chris Tomlinson, & Jason Stanford (Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

Giannis: The Improbable Rise of an NBA MVP by Mirin Fader (Hachette Books, 2021)

¡Hola Papi!: How to Come Out in a Walmart Parking Lot and Other Life Lessons by John Paul Brammer (Simon & Schuster, 2021)

How Stella Learned to Talk: The Groundbreaking Story of the World's First Talking Dog by Christina Hunger (William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2021)

Islands of Abandonment: Nature Rebounding in the Post-Human Landscape by Cal Flynn (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight by Julia Sweig (Random House, and imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

Madhouse at the End of the Earth: The Belgica's Journey into the Dark Antarctic Night by Julian Sancton (Crown Publishing, an imprint of Random House, 2021)

**Me and Sister Bobbie: True Tales of the Family Band* by Willie Nelson & Bobbie Nelson with David Ritz (Random House, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

Oak Flat: A Fight for Sacred Land in the American West by Lauren Redniss (Random House, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

**Of Bears and Ballots: An Alaskan Adventure in Small-Town Politics* by Heather Lende (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2020)

**On Juneteenth* by Annette Gordon-Reed (Liveright Publishing, 2021)

Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants by George W. Bush (Crown Publishing, an imprint of Random House, 2021)

Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting by Lisa Genova (Harmony Books, an imprint of Crown Publishing, 2021)

The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet by John Green (Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown & Company, 2021)

The Book Collectors: A Band of Syrian Rebels and the Stories That Carried Them Through a War by Delphine Minoui, translated by Lara Vergnaud (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2020)

The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border by Rosayra Pablo Cruz & Julie Schwieter Collazo (HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2020)

**The Burning Blue: The Untold Story of Christa McAuliffe and NASA's Challenger Disaster* by Kevin Cook (Henry Holt & Company, 2021)

The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper by Hallie Rubenhold (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019)

The Ground Breaking: An American City and Its Search for Justice by Scott Ellsworth (Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

The Happiest Man on Earth: The Beautiful Life of an Auschwitz Survivor by Eddie Jaku (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2020)

The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China by Jonathan Kaufman (Penguin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

The Loneliest Polar Bear: A True Story of Survival and Peril on the Edge of a Warming World by Kale Williams (Crown Publishing, an imprint of Random House, 2021)

The Queens of Animation: The Untold Story of the Women Who Transformed the World of Disney and Made Cinematic History by Nathalia Holt (Little, Brown & Company, 2019)

The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live by Danielle Dreilinger (W.W. Norton & Company, 2021)

The Secret Life of Groceries: The Dark Miracle of the American Supermarket by Benjamin Lorr (Avery, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2020)

**The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee (One World, an imprint of Random House, 2021)

The Ugly Cry: A Memoir by Danielle Henderson (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

The Way I Heard It by Mike Rowe (Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2019)

The Woman They Could Not Silence: One Woman, Her Incredible Fight for Freedom, and the Men Who Tried to Make Her Disappear by Kate Moore (Sourcebooks, 2021)

The Yellow House: A Memoir by Sarah M. Broom (Grove Press, an imprint of Grove Atlantic, 2019)

This is Your Mind on Plants by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2021)

This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving by David J. Silverman (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019)

Uncomfortable Conversations with A Black Man by Emmanuel Acho (Flatiron Books, 2020)

Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts written by Rebecca Hall, illustrated by Hugo Martínez (Simon & Schuster, 2021)

What Happened to You?: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing by Dr. Bruce D. Perry & Oprah Winfrey (Flatiron Books, 2021)

Wow, No Thank You: Essays by Samantha Irby (Vintage Books, 2020)

You Will Get Through This Night: A Practical Mental Health Guide by Daniel Howell (Dey Street Books, an imprint of William Morrow, 2021)