

2022 Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List

Titles for Kids & Teens

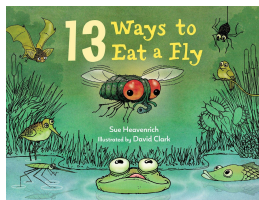


The purpose of the Texas Topaz Reading List is to provide children, teens, and adults with recommended nonfiction titles that stimulate reading for pleasure and personal learning. It is intended for recreational reading and is not designed to support any particular curriculum. Due to the diversity in 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.

GRADES K-2

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



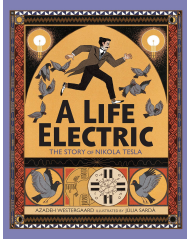
Thirteen flies are devoured in this book. Read it to find out how in this hilarious counting book filled with fascinating fly facts.

***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)



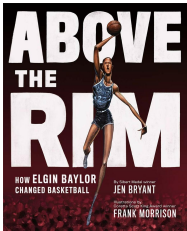
An captivating look into the life of American icon Rita Moreno and her Puerto Rican immigrant roots. Introduces young readers to her vibrant world as a trailblazer and the dedication it took for doors to open for her in Hollywood.

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



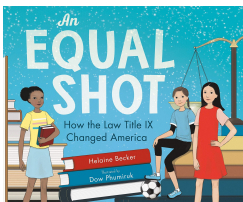
As a three year old Nikola Tesla stroked his beloved cat's back, he saw his first sparks of electricity and became curious. If, as his father told him, the sparks were the same as the lightning on a tree, he wondered, "Is Nature a gigantic cat? If so, who strokes its back?" So begins an obsession that would fuel some of the most important inventions of our time. A delightfully illustrated introduction to Tesla for young readers.

****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)



This beautifully illustrated biography tells the story of Elgin Baylor, a basketball hall of famer in the 1950s to early 1960s. An innovative player on the court, Baylor was also an instrumental civil rights advocate that boycotted segregation until the entire NBA followed suit. Includes further reading and a timeline in the back.

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)



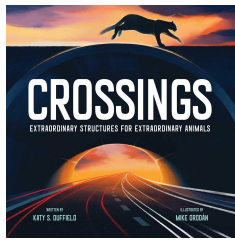
The story of how Title IX, which guarantees equal treatment between genders for students, athletes, and professionals, became law.

****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)



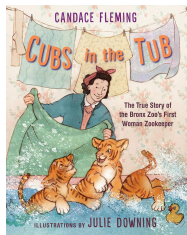
Areli Morales, a Dreamer, recalls her journey from Mexico to New York and the reality of living as an undocumented immigrant.

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



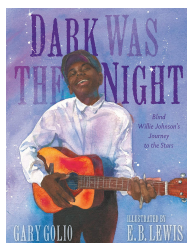
Tunnels, bridges, and highways are not just for people! Readers will explore special wildlife crossings across the globe that help animals safely get from one place to another in this beautifully illustrated picture book.

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)



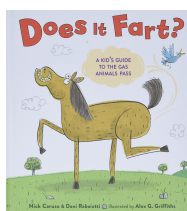
The story of how Helen Martini became the Bronx Zoo's first woman zookeeper by establishing a zoo nursery. Her tender story is filled with love, dedication and adorable baby animals.

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



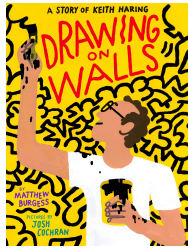
This picture biography of musician Willie Johnson shares how this amazing artist survived the darkness of losing his mother and his sight, and shared light with the world through his singing and music. The song this book was titled after traveled to space on *Voyager I*--a NASA space probe launched in 1977 sent to study the outer Solar System and interstellar space.

***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)



We all may laugh at it, farts, toots, whatever you want to call it, but what do we know about it? And do all animals pass gas? In this fun adventure you'll find out which animals would never do something so indelicate and which ones really are silent but deadly.

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



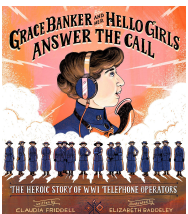
From the age of four until his untimely death at the age of thirty-one, Keith Haring loved to draw and make art. In his brief, brilliant life, he strove to make "art for everybody," contributing his talents to social justice causes, the creation of public works, and in his work with children. His dynamic art style is exuberantly presented and will inspire a new generation of artists.

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



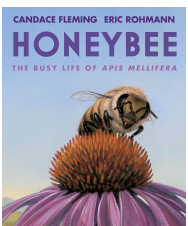
This is a beautiful biography of gymnast Simone Biles that covers both the difficulties and triumphs she has faced throughout her life.

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)



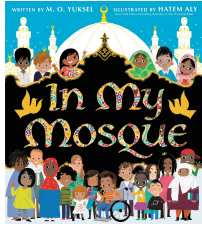
The amazing story of Grace Banker and a group of women who supported the front lines and provided communication of coded messages and important commands throughout the European Theater during WWI. Grace was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal--the first woman soldier to receive the honor.

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



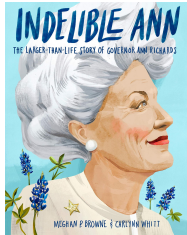
This well researched, beautifully written and illustrated book takes the reader on a journey through the life of the female worker bee. From her nurturing days within the hive to her final flight, Apis's story leaps off the page and into the reader's heart. Informational resources and a diagram at the back.

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



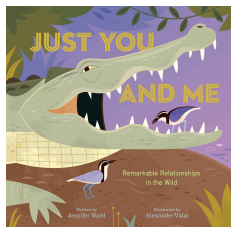
In this colorful, lively book for young readers, we follow along with a boy as he describes all the wonderful ways his place of worship binds his family, community, and the diverse Muslim community as a whole. A beautiful celebration of mosques as centers of Islamic faith.

****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)



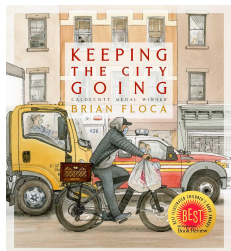
A rousing, brilliantly illustrated biography of the formidable 45th governor of Texas, Ann Richards. With her "high cotton hair," booming voice, and helping hand raised high, she sought to fully represent all people in Texas and believed that public office, solving problems, and helping others, was a woman's work.

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)



Why do Rhinos let Oxpecker birds hitch a ride on their backs? Why does a Sloth love being covered in algae? Learn about these animals' relationships and why they make a perfect match in this engaging picture book.

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



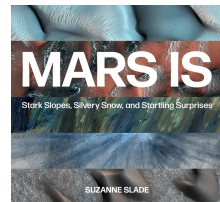
Even with a city mostly shut down, there are workers out and about making sure citizens get all the supplies and care they need. An excellent book to help young children understand the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic without it being too scary.

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)



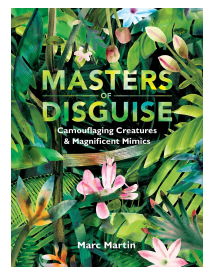
Lady Bird Johnson was an important figure in the beautification of America's Highways. As First Lady of the United States, she worked tirelessly supporting policies to create a cleaner environment for all Americans.

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



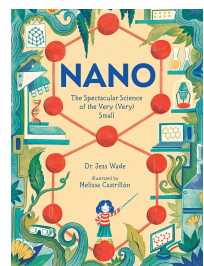
Rocket engineer Suzanne Slade takes readers through stunning photos captured by the most advanced camera ever sent to another planet. For space enthusiasts following NASA's Mars Exploration Program and awaiting continued discoveries on the Red Planet.

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



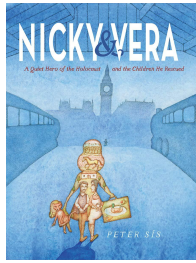
What do the Gaboon Viper, Mimic Octopus, and Great Horned Owl all have in common? They are masters of disguise! Readers will delight in learning about 12 different species that have perfected the art of blending in with their environment. Once you've learned the facts, see if you can find our masters of disguise in the large, full-page seek-and-find activities!

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



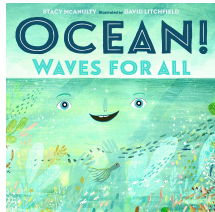
Did you know that everything is made up of atoms, building blocks so small they can't even be seen? Dive into their world and learn how nanotechnology is changing our world to create everything from self-washing windows to cleaner drinking water.

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)



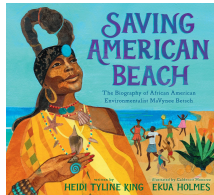
This is the story of Nicholas Winton, a British citizen who helped send Czech children to safety in England just before World War II officially broke out. Six hundred and sixty-nine children would not have survived if not for Nicky, who went to Prague and saved their lives. Vera was one of those children.

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



Hey dudes, ever want to learn more about the ocean? Who better to tell you about it than Ocean themselves? Join Ocean as they tell you its deepest secrets as well as how you can help in the future!

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



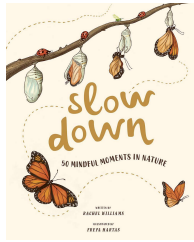
The fascinating story of environmentalist MaVynee Betsch and her quest to save her beloved childhood beach. After a successful career as an opera singer, tragedy strikes and Betsch finds her second act as a powerful advocate to preserve the environment. Through her efforts, the American Beach is now a part of the National Park Service, preserving it for countless generations to enjoy.

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



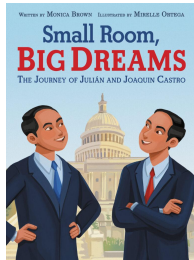
Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress, was a woman of action. This book shows children the actionable steps she took to bring about change not just in her community, but within the United States. By seeing the steps Shirley took, it encourages children to think of the steps they can take to be people of action.

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



A welcome meditation on the slow and deliberate and brief and wondrous ways found in nature. The beautifully illustrated spread encourages browsing and is perfect for budding naturalists. A clarion call to get outside and start observing.

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)



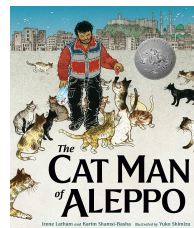
Family, dedication, and hard work were the backbone of many of the dreams the Castro twins imagined for themselves. Set in their hometown of San Antonio, their Tex-Mex culture is beautifully displayed through the text and illustrations found throughout this picture book.

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)



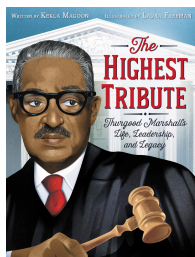
The inspiring memoir of fourth-grader Sophia Spencer who details her journey of falling in love with bugs and how that led to being featured on national television and becoming an advocate for bugs and those who admire them.

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)



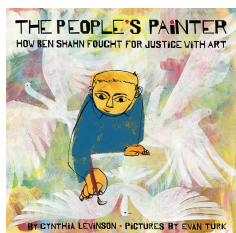
Alaa lives in Syria during a terrible Civil War. While he watches his city being destroyed and its people hurt, Alaa notices the many abandoned cats roaming the city. While he takes it upon himself to save the cats, his efforts also bring back hope for the people in his community to rebuild their city.

***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)



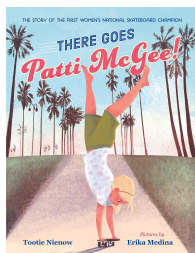
Thurgood Marshall was the first Black Man appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. His legacy as an influential lawyer and judge and fierce fighter of racist laws in the United States easily makes him one of the most important figures in the Civil Rights Movement.

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)



This beautiful picture biography of Ben Shahn highlights the important work this artist provided to America in the early 20th Century. His art focused on social realism and documented so many issues. This lovely biography introduces children to his art, family life, immigration story, and more!

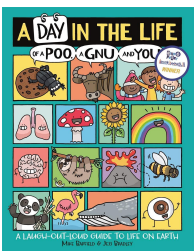
There Goes Patti McGee!: The Story of the First Woman's National Skateboard Champion by Tootie Nienow, illustrated by Erika Medina (Farrar, Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers, 2021)



When Patti McGee first nailed her roller skate wheels to a board, she was on her way to becoming a skateboarding champion. She defied everyone's expectations of skating stunts and made a name for herself as being a fierce skater who didn't let a few bumps and scrapes stop her from challenging people's ideas about female skateboarders.

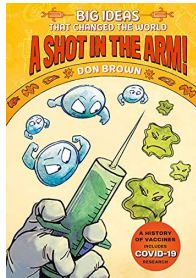
GRADES 3-5

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 hilarious look at everything you could ever want to know about the human body, the animal kingdom, and earth and science. From the day-in-the-life of your liver to a colossal squid to a lightning strike, every comic will have you discovering more about the world around us.

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



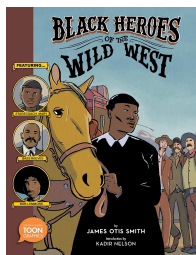
A timely exploration of the history of vaccinations and the contribution of vaccines to public health. Graphic format.

****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)



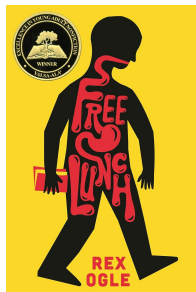
Gino Bartali was a champion cyclist. In 1938, he won the most coveted race of all, the Tour de France. However, Bartali's greatest triumphs would come during World War II. Putting his bicycle to use, Bartali would cycle secret messages and papers all over Italy, ultimately helping about 850 people. An inspiring story that reminds us, "Some medals are pinned to your soul, not your jacket."

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



With a blend of comic strip style illustrations, primary sources, maps, and timelines to tell the stories of Black men and, yes, women who were part of the Westward Expansion in early U.S. history. Whether they were mail carriers, deputy U.S. marshals, or cowboys, they played an integral role in early America.

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



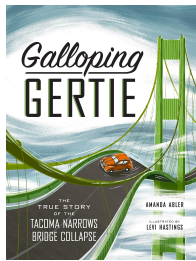
An unflinching memoir about growing up poor and in an abusive household in Texas. The author never shies away from the harsh realities of his childhood, but also shares the moments of hope that kept him going. An essential read.

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



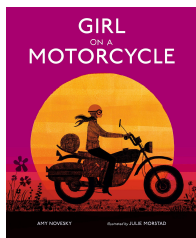
The Fungarium explores the fascinating world of fungi, in every shape and form. It's filled with interesting and strange facts, including its impact on human history and its vital role in ecosystems.

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)



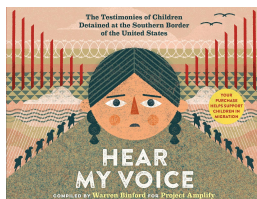
This picture book shares the story of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse and why it occurred. The story covers not only a variety of people involved in the architecture and engineering of the bridge, but also those who were involved in the incident. The swaying and "galloping" of the bridge is also explained in detail and how the rebuilding of the bridge solved the previous issues. The engineering and architectural details included in this story make it a fun read for younger children.

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



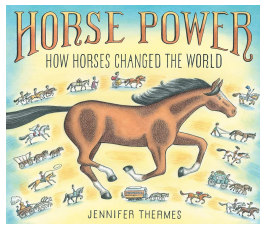
Follow a girl on her motorcycle as she rides through many countries, meets new friends, and sees some of the most beautiful scenery and landmarks found across the globe.

****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)



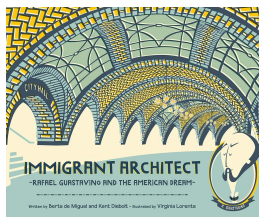
This book gives the devastating first-person accounts of over 60 children in detention at the U.S.-Mexico border, in their own words. Illustrated by 17 Latinx artists.

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



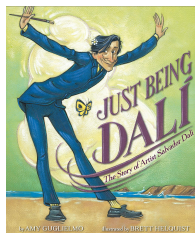
The history and evolution of horses from their first appearance on earth to how they migrated to six continents and became an integral part of human society. Detailed maps, illustrations and timeline support text.

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



An illustrative biography of the great Spanish architect Raphael Guastavino who immigrated to the United States during the Gilded Age allowing him to help build early New York City into one of the most thriving cities in the world.

****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)



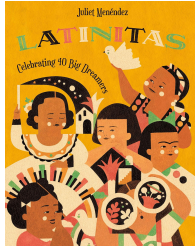
From an early age painter Salvador Dali paid less attention to the opinions of others and "couldn't help but be himself." His strong sense of self allowed him to develop into one of the most prominent Surrealist artists of all time.

****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)



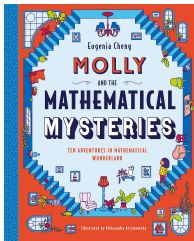
Born in Texas to a formerly enslaved man, shy Scott Joplin would master the piano and become the greatest musician in the Ragtime Music era.

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



Discover the stories of 40 Latinas who have changed the world! Each biography will inspire readers not only with their accomplishments, but also motivate them to follow their own dreams. Menéndez uses bright, eye catching illustrations to further draw the reader in.

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)



Molly takes the reader on an interactive and puzzling adventure through a math wonderland. Follow the clues to get Molly home.

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



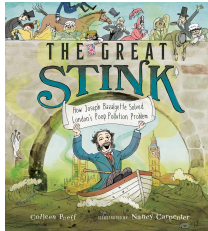
Learn all about the orchestra in this vibrantly illustrated introduction! From how trumpets work to famous composers to concert halls around the world, *Orchestra* will transport readers to musical new heights with every turn of the page.

****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)



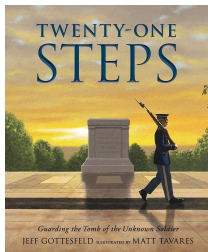
For a group of resourceful boys on the tiny Thai island of Koh Panyee, the lack of a soccer field proved not to be a deterrent when they really wanted to play. With creativity and determination, they not only built themselves a soccer field but a winning team as well.

****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)



London stinks - literally! Journey back to 1858 and learn how one engineer, Joseph Bazalgette, saved the city of London not only from the disgusting smells of poo, but also the lives of its citizens with the invention of a new sewer system.

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



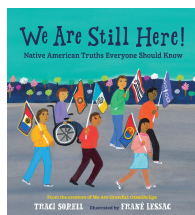
A tribute to the nameless fallen soldiers and the sentinels who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery.

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)



A captivating mix of mystery, history, and graphic art, *Escape at 10,000 Feet* is a true account of the 1971 airplane hijacking.

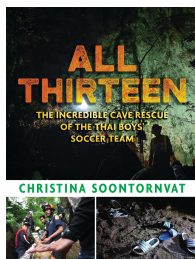
We Are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac (Charlesbridge, 2021)



In a picture book, students at the Native Nations Community School give presentations about the history, present, and future of Indigenous communities.

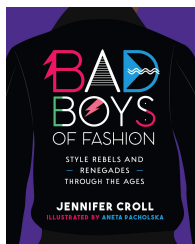
GRADES 6-8

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



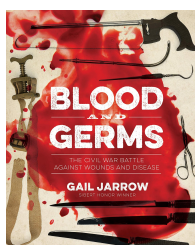
The amazing account of the Thai soccer team that was trapped inside a cave in the summer of 2018 and the rescue mission that captured the world's attention and assistance as efforts were made to rescue them. Soontornvat's account includes short chapters, solid research, with amazing primary source maps, photos, and information about not only the rescue mission, but also the local geography and culture in that particular area of Thailand.

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



A collective biography that explores the history of fashion through its most iconic influencers.

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



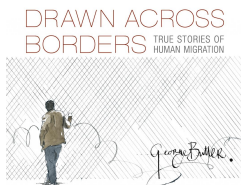
Explores the U.S. Civil War through the lens of medical history, focusing on the gruesome experiences that brought about advancements in science and medicine. First-person accounts, pictures, glossary, and timeline round out this fascinating read.

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)



A short story collection on acts of kindness that center on inclusivity, compassion, empathy, and building respect for self and others, and shows how kindness has a ripple effect through the community. Written by young teen authors with notes and stories from Lady Gaga.

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



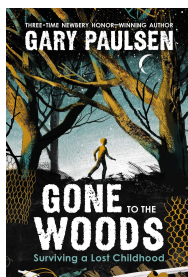
George Butler recounts his experiences in war zones and refugee camps across Europe, Asia, and Africa through interviews and illustrations.

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



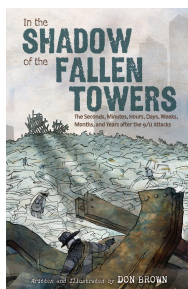
Dude Perfect, a group of five guys who do trick shots and antics on their YouTube channel, have created a book of tricks, the science behind them, and tips on how to make these tricks easier. The fun and excitement of their personalities shine throughout the book, and readers will truly enjoy their energy, creativity, and the ability to try and recreate some of these fun activities. Great for readers who like to experiment or try sports tricks!

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



Gary Paulsen chronicles his younger years battling poverty, neglect, and uncertainty, describing the turning points that allow him to overcome these challenges to become an admired author.

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)



A graphic nonfiction approach not just to the events of 9/11, but also the aftermath that continued for years after the largest terror attack on American soil.

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



A graphic nonfiction exploration of the rise of the first Native American/Mexican-American Rock Band in conjunction with the rise of Native American Civil Rights Groups such as AIM (American Indian Movement.)

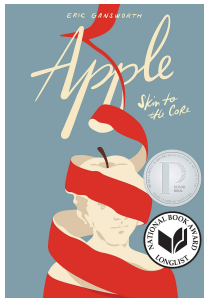
****The Power of Style: How Fashion and Beauty Are Being Used to Reclaim Cultures*** by Christian Allaire (Annick Press, 2021)



An exploration of fashion through the lens of various cultures. It explores fashion, makeup, hair, and other style trends that provide the opportunity for people to express their individuality and culture, and promotes the idea that style is personal and powerful.

GRADES 9-12

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



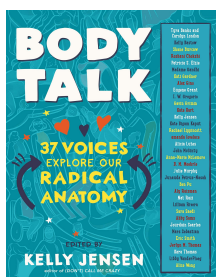
"Apple" is a slur in Native communities for someone supposedly "red on the outside, white on the inside." In verse form, Eric Gansworth dispels the slur by telling his story, the story of his family, and the story of Native Americans everywhere.

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



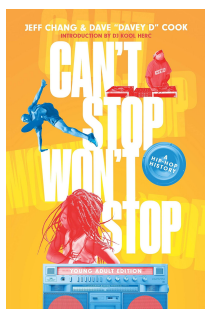
Hyun Sook Kim was an excited college freshman in 1983 living in South Korea under the rule of a tortuous military regime which banned any books they felt encouraged independent thought. Kim finds herself a part of a group of students reading the banned books, protesting the government, and enduring torture from soldiers.

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



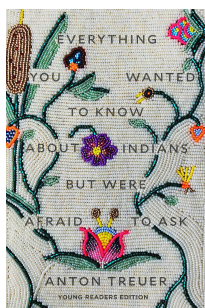
A diverse collection of essays celebrating the many types of bodies and exploring first-hand experience with a variety of body-related topics. Discover how our bodies help inform who we are and how we move through the world.

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)



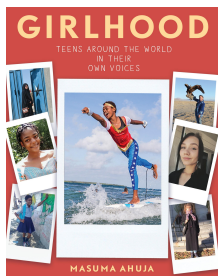
A music and social history for hip-hop fans who are interested in understanding the origin of the genre and influence on American culture and politics.

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



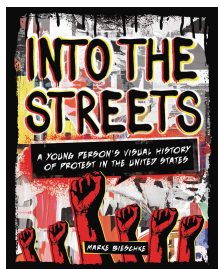
Dr. Anton Treuer of the Ojibwe Tribe answers questions that many people have concerning Indigenous populations.

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



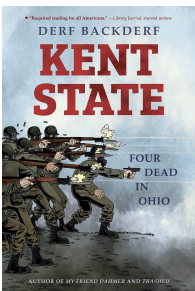
A collection of diary entries from 31 girls around the world. Their personal accounts give the reader a glimpse into the lives of others while affirming that many experiences are universal.

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)



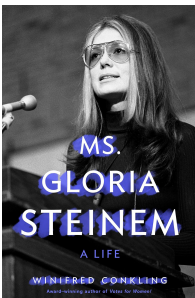
This visual history covers protests and acts of resistance that occurred throughout U.S. history. Each short chapter covers the people, goals, and outcomes of each protest. The book also includes the roles that teens played in many of the protests along with information to assist teens in planning a protest.

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



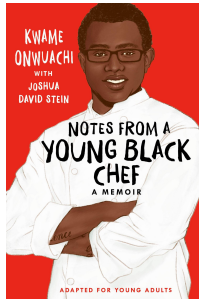
A graphic novel retelling of the events leading up to the killing of four students at Kent State University by the National Guard during the tumultuous Vietnam War Era.

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



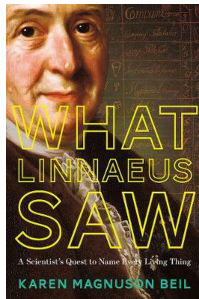
While many YA readers have heard the name Gloria Steinem, most have not heard the story of how she came up from a troubled family to become one of the most influential feminists in the second wave of the Women's Rights Movement. This concise biography offers a look at her childhood and her early reluctance to join the women's movement, to her ongoing work teaching others how to stand up for their rights.

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)



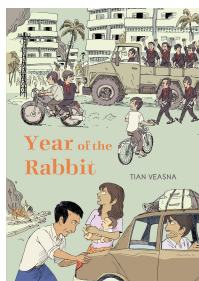
In this memoir, Kwame Onwuachi tells of his remarkable rise as a chef and the convergence of race, fame, and food in his life. An account of his culinary coming-of-age by the age of 29.

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)



Explores Carl Linnaeus's fascinating and inspiring life as a scientist, detailing his innovative process for naming every living thing.

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

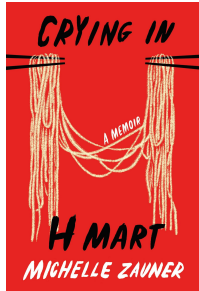


The true story of one family as they struggle to survive the deadly Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

ADULT FOR YOUNG ADULT

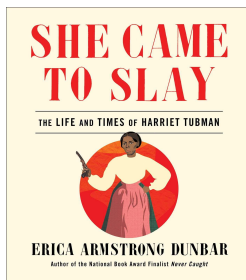
Adult titles recommended for Young Adult readers

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



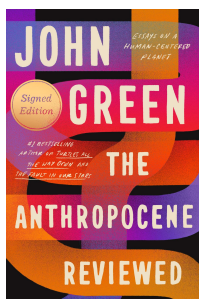
Japanese Breakfast frontwoman Michelle Zauner describes the struggles of growing up biracial in a small Oregon town. Her fraught relationship with her Korean mother is told through their shared love of food, and comes to a heartbreaking conclusion when her mother is diagnosed with cancer. A beautiful tribute to the enduring bond between mothers and daughters and our capacity to pick up the pieces after losing a loved one.

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



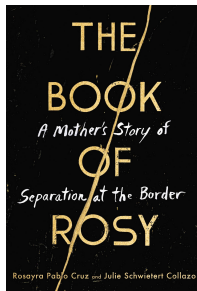
Harriet Tubman is best known as one of the conductors on the Underground Railroad, but many may not know of her work as a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War and extensive work as a leading abolitionist, fierce suffragist, and advocate for the aged. *She Came to Slay* is filled with photos, illustrations, and stunning facts about this American icon.

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



Popular young-adult novelist John Green presents a volume of essays for adults--all of us who are living in the Anthropocene, our current geologic era. Writing in his lively, warmhearted style, Green offers a series of five-star reviews of topics he finds interesting and thought-provoking for today, including Dr Pepper, Halley's Comet, velociraptors, teddy bears, and much, much more.

****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)



After violence caused her to make the incredibly difficult decision to migrate to the U.S. with her children, Rosayra must then figure out how to survive under the "zero tolerance" policy that separates her from her children. This detailed account of her journey through the immigration center, detention facilities, separation from her children, and challenges in adapting to her new home provides an eye-opening look at the struggles faced by immigrants, and also the importance of coming together to support one another and build community.

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



This practical and often funny mental health support guide gives relatable and professional advice for how to take control of your mental health. Practical things are suggested for immediate use in our toughest moments, to things you can do for long term mental health, with the ultimate reminder that you will get through this night.