

2021 Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List



The purpose of the Texas Topaz Reading List is to provide children 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 vote by the committee.

The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal About Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power

by Deirdre Mask

**All Boys Aren't Blue*

by George M. Johnson

All the Way to the Top

by Annette Bay Pimentel, illustrated by Nabi Ali

Almost American Girl

by Robin Ha

American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics, and the Birth of American CSI

by Kate Winkler Dawson

**Atomic Women: The Untold Stories of the Scientists Who Helped Create the Nuclear Bomb*

by Roseanne Mintillo

The Best Cook in the World: Tales from My Momma's Table

by Rick Bragg

Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do

by Jennifer L. Eberhardt, PhD

The Big Book of Soccer

by Mundial, illustrated by Damien Weighill

**Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas*

by Stephen Harrigan

Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins

by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Ebony Glenn

Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art

by James Nestor

<i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</i>	by Isabel Wilkerson
<i>Caught! Nabbing History's Most Wanted</i>	by Georgia Bragg, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley
<i>The Collected Schizophrenias</i>	by Esmé Weijun Wang
<i>*Dancing at the Pity Party: A Dead Mom Graphic Memoir</i>	by Tyler Feder
<i>*Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreno Played the Piano for President Lincoln</i>	by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael Lopez
<i>Dear Girls: Intimate Tales, Untold Secrets, and Advice for Living Your Best Life</i>	by Ali Wong
<i>*Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century</i>	Edited by Alice Wong
<i>El baile de Octavo y Otros Recuerdos / The Eighth-grade Dance and Other Memories</i>	by Ada de Jesus, translated by Nicolas Kanellos
<i>Even More Lesser Spotted Animals</i>	by Martin Brown
<i>*Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person Ever to Run a Marathon</i>	by Simran Jeet Singh, illustrated by Baljinder Kaur
<i>Fearless Felines: 30 True Tales of Courageous Cats</i>	by Kimberlie Hamilton
<i>*Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief</i>	by David Kessler
<i>Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy</i>	by Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano
<i>*A Garden in Your Belly: Meet the Microbes in Your Gut</i>	by Masha D'Yans
<i>The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History</i>	by Kassia St. Clair
<i>*Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness</i>	by Jennifer Berry Hawes
<i>Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family</i>	by Robert Kolker
<i>How to Solve a Problem: The Rise (and Falls) of a Rock-Climbing Champion</i>	by Ashima Shiraishi, illustrated by Yao Xiao
<i>How We Fight For Our Lives</i>	by Saeed Jones
<i>How We Got to the Moon</i>	by John Rocco
<i>*How Women Won the Vote: Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Their Big Idea</i>	by Susan Campbell Bartoletti, illustrated by Ziyue Chen
<i>*I Was Their American Dream</i>	by Malaka Gharib

<i>In the Dream House</i>	by Carmen Maria Machado
<i>It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way</i>	by Kyo Maclear, illustrated by Julie Morstad
<i>Itch! Everything You Didn't Want to Know about What Makes You Scratch</i>	by Anita Sanchez, illustrated by Gilbert Ford
* <i>Jane Against the World</i>	by Karen Blumenthal
<i>Just Like Beverly</i>	by Vicki Conrad, illustrated by David Hohn
<i>Know My Name: A Memoir</i>	by Chanel Miller
<i>Let's Save Our Planet: Forests. Uncover the Facts. Be Inspired. Make a Difference.</i>	by Jess French, illustrated by Alexander Mostov
* <i>A Last Goodbye</i>	by Elin Kelsey, illustrated by Soyeon Kim
<i>The Last Stargazers: The Enduring Story of Astronomy's Vanishing Explorers</i>	by Emily Levesque
<i>The Less People Know About Us: A Mystery of Betrayal, Family Secrets, and Stolen Identity</i>	by Axton Betz-Hamilton
<i>The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President--And Why It Failed</i>	by Brad Meltzer
<i>The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are</i>	by Libby Copeland
* <i>Love Your Body</i>	by Jessica Sanders, illustrated by Carol Rossetti
* <i>Maid: Hard work, low pay, and a mother's will to survive</i>	by Stephanie Land
<i>Making Their Voices Heard: The Inspiring Friendship of Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe</i>	by Vivian Kirkfield, illustrated by Alleanna Harris
<i>Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir</i>	by Natasha Trethewey
<i>Mindfulness and Meditation</i>	by Whitney Stewart
<i>Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving</i>	by Mo Rocca
* <i>Monstrous: The Lore, the Gore, and Science Behind Your Favorite Monsters</i>	by Carlyn Beccia
* <i>Moth: An Evolution Story</i>	by Isabel Thomas, illustrated by Daniel Egnéus
<i>Mother Jones and Her Army of Mill Children</i>	by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
* <i>My Bed: Enchanting Ways to Fall Asleep Around the World</i>	by Rebecca Bond, illustrated by Sally Mavor
<i>My Survival: A Girl on Schindler's List</i>	Rena Finder with Joshua M. Greene

<i>*Nazi Saboteurs: Hitler's Secret Attack on America</i>	by Samantha Seiple
<i>*The Next President: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of America's Presidents</i>	by Kate Messner, illustrated by Adam Rex
<i>*Nonsense! The Curious Story of Edward Gorey</i>	by Lori Mortensen, illustrated by Chloe Bristol
<i>*Not a Bean</i>	by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez, illustrated by Laura Gonzalez
<i>Obviously</i>	by Akilah Hughes
<i>Ocean Speaks: How Marie Tharp Revealed the Ocean's Biggest Secret</i>	by Jess Keating, illustrated by Katie Hickey
<i>*The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read</i>	by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora
<i>Once a Girl, Always a Boy: A Family Memoir of a Transgender Journey</i>	by Jo Ivester
<i>Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America</i>	by Candacy Taylor
<i>Packs: Strength in Numbers</i>	by Hannah Salyer
<i>*The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria, and Hubris</i>	by Mark Honigsbaum
<i>Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist</i>	by Julie Leung, illustrated by Chris Saaki
<i>*PLASTICUS MARITIMUS: An Invasive Species</i>	by Ana Pêgo and Isabel Minhós Martins, illustrated by Bernardo P. Carvalho
<i>Play Like An Animal! Why Critters Splash, Race, Twirl, and Chase</i>	by Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Mia Powell
<i>*Playlist: The Rebels and Revolutionaries of Sound</i>	by James Rhodes, illustrated by Martin O'Neill
<i>The Poison Eaters: Fighting Danger and Fraud in Our Food and Drugs</i>	by Gail Jarrow
<i>Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom</i>	by Teresa Robeson, illustrated by Rebecca Huang
<i>Rainbow Revolutionaries: 50 LGBTQ+ People Who Made History</i>	by Sarah Prager, illustrated by Sarah Papworth
<i>*R-E-S-P-E-C-T, Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul</i>	by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison
<i>*Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou</i>	by Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Tonya Engel
<i>Rough Magic: Riding the World's Loneliest Horse Race</i>	by Lara Prior-Palmer
<i>*Selena: Queen of Tejano Music</i>	by Sylvia López, illustrated by Paola Escobar
<i>She Leads: The Elephant Matriarch</i>	by June Smalls, illustrated by Yumi Shimokawara

<i>The Splendid and The Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz</i>	by Erik Larson
<i>A Sporting Chance: How Paralympics Founder Ludwig Guttman Saved Lives With Sports</i>	by Lori Alexander, illustrated by Allan Drummond
<i>*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i>	by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi
<i>The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love & Truth</i>	Edited by Wade Hudson, Cheryl Willis Hudson
<i>Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"</i>	by Deborah Heiligman, illustrated by Lawrence Lee
<i>Trending: How and Why Stuff Gets Popular</i>	by Kira Vermond, illustrated by Clayton Hanmer
<i>The Ungrateful Refugee</i>	by Dina Nayeri
<i>Unseen Worlds: Real-Life Microscopic Creatures Hiding All Around Us</i>	by H��l��ne Rajak and Damien Laverdunt
<i>The Very, Very, Very Dreadful: The Influenza Panic of 1918</i>	by Albert Marrin
<i>Viral: the fight against AIDS in America</i>	by Ann Bausum
<i>Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in Nature</i>	by Marcie Flinchum Atkins
<i>What Do Scientists Do All Day?</i>	by Jane Wilsher, illustrated by Maggie Li
<i>*Winged Wonders: Solving the Monarch Migration Mystery</i>	by Meeg Pincus, illustrated by Yasmin Imamura
<i>*The Women with Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II</i>	by Katherine Sharp Landdeck