

Nonfiction Summer Reading List for 8th and 9th graders

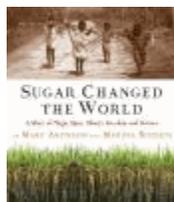
(Audiobooks and eBooks available at the Capital Area District Library)



edited by Rose Brock

[Hope nation : YA authors share personal moments of inspiration](#)

A collection of essays and original stories by some of today's . . . young adult authors that speaks directly to teens on how to find hope and comfort in today's turbulent society. 276 p. 2019



Aronson, Marc

[Sugar Changed the World : a Story of Magic Spice Slavery Freedom and Science](#)

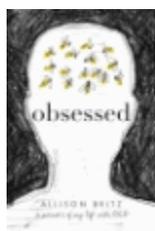
Sugar has left a bloody trail through human history. Cane--not cotton or tobacco--drove the bloody Atlantic slave trade and took the lives of countless Africans who toiled on vast sugar plantations under cruel overseers. And yet the very popularity of sugar gave abolitionists in England the one tool that could finally end the slave trade. 166 p. 2010



Bascomb, Neal

[The Nazi Hunters : How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi](#)

Recounts how, sixteen years after the end of World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann, in a remote area of Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes committed during the Holocaust. 245 pages 2013 (eAudiobook)



Britz, Allison

[Obsessed : a memoir of my life with OCD](#)

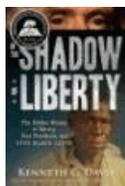
A brave teen recounts her debilitating struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder--and brings readers through every painful step as she finds her way to the other side--in this powerful and inspiring memoir. 351 p. 2017



Cain, Susan

[Quiet power : the secret strengths of introverts](#)

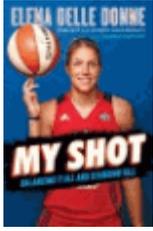
A discussion of the power of introverts for kids and teens with a focus on school, family life, and friendship. 270 p. 2016 (eBook, Book on CD)



Davis, Kenneth C.

[In the shadow of liberty : the hidden history of slavery, four presidents, and five black lives](#)

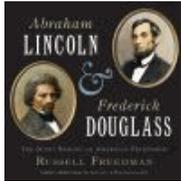
An examination of American slavery through the true stories of five enslaved people who were considered the property of some of our best-known presidents. 286 p. 2016 (eBook)



Delle Donne, Elena

[My shot : balancing it all and standing tall](#)

The professional basketball player and 2016 Olympic gold medalist shares her inspirational story of overcoming the challenges of competitive sports through balancing hard work and the support of family. 253 p. 2018



Freedman, Russell.

[Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass : the Story Behind an American Friendship](#)

A clear-sighted, carefully researched account of two surprisingly parallel lives and how they intersected at a critical moment in U.S. history.

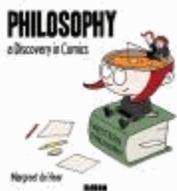
119 p. 2012 (eBook)



Grimes, Nikki

[One last word : wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance](#)

In this collection of poetry, Nikki Grimes looks afresh at the poets of the Harlem Renaissance -- including voices like Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, and many more writers of importance and resonance from this era. 120 p. 2017



Heer, Margreet de

[Philosophy: a discovery in comics](#)

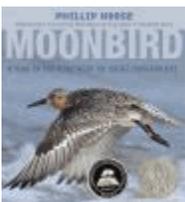
The author features herself and her husband Yiri as guides in this graphic novel introduction to deep thinking and philosophy, which includes a brief history of philosophy and a survey of well-known philosophers. 119 p. 2012



Homayoonfar, Nioucha

[Taking cover : one girl's story of growing up during the Iranian Revolution](#)

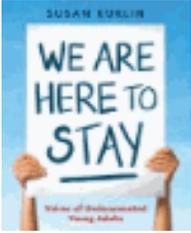
This coming-of-age memoir, set during the Iranian Revolution, tells the true story of a young girl who moves to Tehran from the U.S. and has to adjust to living in a new country, learning a new language, and starting a new school during one of the most turbulent periods in Iran's history. 160 p. 2019



Hoose, Phillip M.

[Moonbird : a Year On the Wind with the Great Survivor B95](#)

In the course of his lifetime, B95 has flown the distance to the moon and halfway back! However, recent changes along his migratory circuit - changes caused mostly by human activity - have reduced the food available and made it harder for the birds to reach. How can this one bird make it year after year when so many others fall? 148 p. 2012 (Book on CD)



Kuklin, Susan

[We are here to stay : voices of undocumented young adults](#)

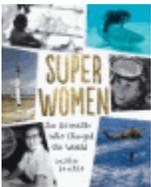
Meet nine courageous young adults who have lived in the United States with a secret for much of their lives: they are not U.S. citizens. They came from Colombia, Mexico, Ghana, Independent Samoa, and Korea. They came seeking education, fleeing violence, and escaping poverty. All have heartbreaking and hopeful stories about leaving their homelands and starting a new life in America. And all are weary of living in the shadows. 182 p. 2019



Kyi, Tanya Lloyd

[Eyes & spies : how you're tracked and why you should know](#)

... looks at the way information and data about us is collected and used by individuals, governments, companies, and organizations. Each chapter covers one aspect of the subject, from data collection to computer surveillance to personal privacy. Arguments for both increased security and increased privacy are offered, which encourages readers to think critically about issues and decide for themselves. 135 p. 2017



Lawlor, Laurie

[Super women : six scientists who changed the world](#)

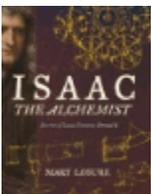
A brief biography of six women scientists who have changed the world. Eugenie Clark (ichthyologist), Marie Tharp (cartographer), Florence Hawley Ellis (anthropologist), Gertrude Elion (pharmacologist), Margaret Burbidge (astrophysicist), and Katherine Coleman Johnson (mathematician). 57 p. 2017



Levine, Gail Carson

[Writer to writer : from think to ink](#)

In this lively nonfiction book for young readers, bestselling author Gail Carson Levine shares her secrets of great writing. 295 p. 2015 (eAudiobook)



Losure, Mary

[Isaac the Alchemist : secrets of Isaac Newton, reveal'd](#)

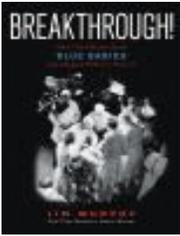
A look at the life of Isaac Newton, focusing on his early life and scientific inquiries. 163 p. 2017



Markle, Sandra

[The case of the vanishing honeybees: a scientific mystery](#)

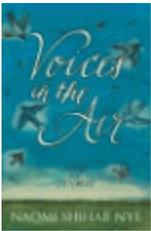
Presents facts about the ongoing investigation into the decline of honey bees around the world from colony collapse disorder, as scientists look at the impact of such factors as pesticides, farmer transportation of bee hives, fungal infections, and climate change. 48 p. 2014 (eBook)



Murphy, Jim

[Breakthrough : How three people saved “blue babies” and changed medicine forever](#)

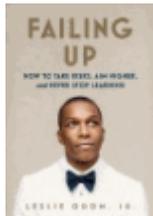
The story of the landmark 1944 surgical procedure that repaired the heart of a child with blue baby syndrome--lack of blood oxygen caused by a congenital defect. The team that developed the procedure included a cardiologist and a surgeon, but most of the actual work was done by Vivien Thomas, an African American lab assistant who was frequently mistaken for a janitor. 129 p. 2015 (eBook)



Nye, Naomi Shihab

[Voices in the air : poems for listeners](#)

Ninety-five poems pay tribute to essential voices past and present that have the power to provoke us, lead us, and give us hope. 190 p. 2018



Odom, Leslie, Jr.

[Failing up : how to take risks, aim higher, and never stop learning](#)

Leslie Odom, Jr. burst on the scene in 2015, originating the role of Aaron Burr in the phenomenon Broadway musical "Hamilton." Since then, he has performed for sold-out audiences, sang for the Obamas at the White House, and won a Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. 200 p. 2018 (eBook)



Osborne, Linda Barrett

[This land is our land : a history of American immigration](#)

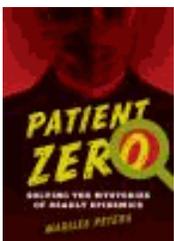
This book explores the way government policy and popular responses to immigrant groups evolved throughout U.S. history, particularly between 1800 and 1965. 124 p. 2016 (eBook)



Page, Andrea M.

[Sioux code talkers of World War II](#)

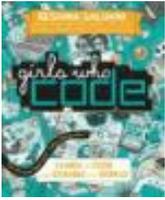
The author's great-uncle John Bear King was a Sioux Indian in the First Cavalry in the Second World War. Her book follows seven Sioux who put aside a long history of prejudice against their people and joined the fight against Japan, using their native language as a secret code for the Americans. The Sioux and other tribal code-talking groups have historically taken a backseat to the Navajo Code Talkers, until a presidential act of recognition was signed in 2008. 128 p. 2017



Peters, Marilee

[Patient zero : solving the mysteries of deadly epidemics](#)

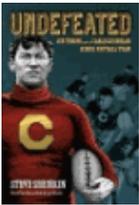
Engrossing true stories of the pioneers of epidemiology who risked their lives to find the source of deadly diseases. Throughout history, more people have died in disease epidemics than in wars or other disasters. The courageous, trail-blazing defenders against these diseases faced a terrifying personal gamble. 166 p. 2014



Saujani, Reshma

[Girls who code : learn to code and change the world](#)

Introduces the relevance of coding and shares down-to-earth explanations about coding principles and real-life stories of women programmers who work at such places as Pixar and NASA. 168 p. 2017



Sheinkin, Steve

[Undefeated : Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football team](#)

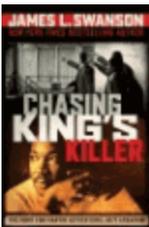
A great American sport and Native American history come together in this true story of how Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner created the legendary Carlisle Indians football team. 280 p. 2017



Slater, Dashka

[The 57 bus](#)

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. 305 p. 2017



Swanson, James L

[Chasing King's killer : the hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassin](#)

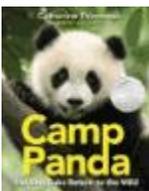
James Earl Ray and Martin Luther King, Jr. had two very different life journeys -- but their paths fatally collide when Ray assassinates the world-renown civil rights leader. This book provides an inside look into both of their lives, the history of the time, and a blow-by-blow examination of the assassination and its aftermath. 373 p. 2018



Swinburne, Stephen R.

[Sea turtle scientist](#)

Explores the leatherback sea turtle's natural history and recounts the extraordinary efforts by scientists trying to save them. 65 p. 2014



Thimmesh, Catherine

[Camp Panda : helping cubs return to the wild](#)

Looks at attempts to save the dwindling giant panda population by having people dress up as pandas and teach panda cubs how to live and survive in the wild. 60 p. 2018



Vance, Ashlee

[Elon Musk and the quest for a fantastic future](#)

A biography of businessman Elon Musk, discussing his childhood in South Africa, his immigration to the United States in 1992, and his involvement with PayPal, Tesla Motors, and SpaceX. 280 p. 2017