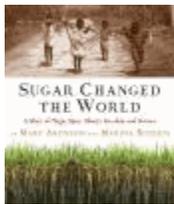


Nonfiction Summer Reading List for 8th and 9th graders

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



Aronson, Marc

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

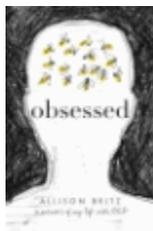
Sugar has left a bloody trail through human history. Cane--not cotton or tobacco--drove the bloody Atlantic slave trade and took the lives of countless Africans who toiled on vast sugar plantations under cruel overseers. And yet the very popularity of sugar gave abolitionists in England the one tool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

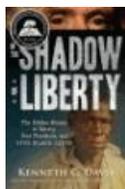
A brave teen recounts her debilitating struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder--and brings readers through every painful step as she finds her way to the other side--in this powerful and inspiring memoir. 351 p. 2017



Cain, Susan

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

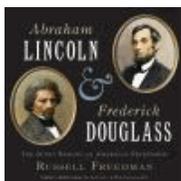
A discussion of the power of introverts for kids and teens with a focus on school, family life, and friendship. 270 p. 2016 (eBook, Book on CD)



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)



Freedman, Russell.

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

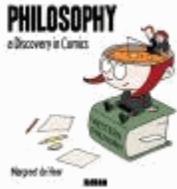
A clear-sighted, carefully researched account of two surprisingly parallel lives and how they intersected at a critical moment in U.S. history. 119 p. 2012 (eBook)



Grimes, Nikki

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

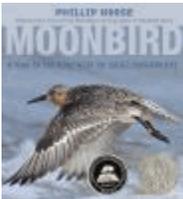
In this collection of poetry, Nikki Grimes looks afresh at the poets of the Harlem Renaissance -- including voices like Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, and many more writers of importance and resonance from this era. 120 p. 2017



Heer, Margreet de

[Philosophy: a discovery in comics](#)

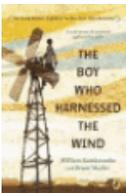
The author features herself and her husband Yiri as guides in this graphic novel introduction to deep thinking and philosophy, which includes a brief history of philosophy and a survey of well-known philosophers. 119 p. 2012



Hoose, Phillip M.

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

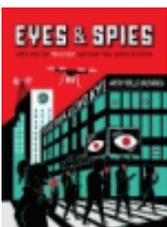
In the course of his lifetime, B95 has flown the distance to the moon and halfway back! However, recent changes along his migratory circuit - changes caused mostly by human activity - have reduced the food available and made it harder for the birds to reach. How can this one bird make it year after year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



Kamkwamba, William

[The boy who harnessed the wind](#)

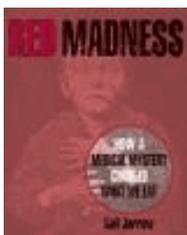
African teenager William Kamkwamba explored science books in his village library when he was forced to drop out of school, and was able to change his family's life by creating a windmill to pump water for his family's farm. 293 p. 2015



Kyi, Tanya Lloyd

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

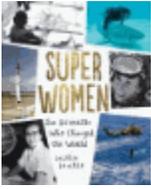
... looks at the way information and data about us is collected and used by individuals, governments, companies, and organizations. Each chapter covers one aspect of the subject, from data collection to computer surveillance to personal privacy. Arguments for both increased security and increased privacy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



Jarrow, Gail

[Red madness : how a medical mystery changed what we eat](#)

An account of the mysterious disease called pellagra that spread across the American South in the early 1900s that made people weak, disfigured, and insane and sometimes caused their deaths; and discusses how doctors and public health officials found the cause of the illness and stopped the epidemic. 192 p. 2014



Lawlor, Laurie

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

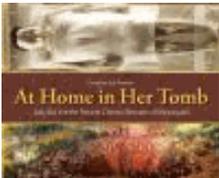
A brief biography of six women scientists who have changed the world. Eugenie Clark (ichthyologist), Marie Tharp (cartographer), Florence Hawley Ellis (anthropologist), Gertrude Elion (pharmacologist), Margaret Burbidge (astrophysicist), and Katherine Coleman Johnson (mathematician). 57 p. 2017



Levine, Gail Carson

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

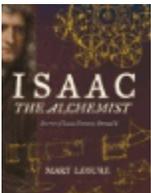
In this lively nonfiction book for young readers, bestselling author Gail Carson Levine shares her secrets of great writing. 295 p. 2015 (eAudiobook)



Liu-Perkins, Christine

[At home in her tomb : Lady Dai and the ancient Chinese treasures of Mawangdui](#)

Presents the mysteries of the Mawangdui tombs, one of China's top archaeological finds of the last century, shedding light upon life in China during the Han dynasty. 80 p. 2014



Losure, Mary

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

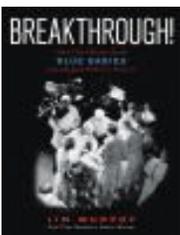
A look at the life of Isaac Newton, focusing on his early life and scientific inquiries. 163 p. 2017



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)



Osborne, Linda Barrett

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

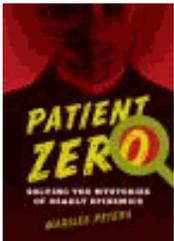
This book explores the way government policy and popular responses to immigrant groups evolved throughout U.S. history, particularly between 1800 and 1965. 124 p. 2016 (eBook)



Page, Andrea M.

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

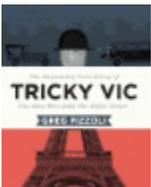
The author's great-uncle John Bear King was a Sioux Indian in the First Cavalry in the Second World War. Her book follows seven Sioux who put aside a long history of prejudice against their people and joined the fight against Japan, using their native language as a secret code for the Americans. The 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



Pizzoli, Greg

[**Tricky Vic : the impossibly true story of the man who sold the Eiffel Tower**](#)

Early 1900s: Tricky Vic first conned Chicago mobster Al Capone. Eventually, he went to Paris to "pull off something big, a con that would secure his future for years to come." 39 p. 2015



Saujani, Reshma

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

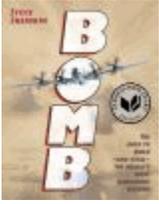
Introduces the relevance of coding and shares down-to-earth explanations about coding principles and real-life stories of women programmers who work at such places as Pixar and NASA. 168 p. 2017



edited and with an introduction by Jon Scieszka

[**True stories**](#)

Jon Scieszka's Guys Read anthology series for tweens turns to nonfiction in its fifth volume, True Stories. The fifth installment in the Guys Read Library of Great Reading features ten stories that are 100% amazing, 100% adventurous, 100% unbelievable--and 100% true. 242 p. 2014 (eBook, eAudiobook)

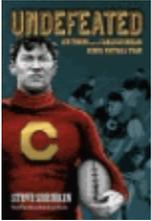


Sheinkin, Steve

[Bomb : The Race to Build--and Steal--The World's Most Dangerous Weapon](#)

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

266 p. 2012 (Book on CD, eAudiobook, eBook)



Sheinkin, Steve

[Undeclared : 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



Stone, Tanya Lee

[Girl rising : changing the world one girl at a time](#)

Follows girls who are coming of age in the developing world and confronting barriers to their education. 193 p. 2017



Swanson, James L

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

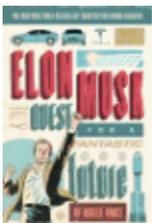
James Earl Ray and Martin Luther King, Jr. had two very different life journeys -- but their paths fatally collide when Ray assassinates the world-renown civil rights leader. This book provides an inside look into both of their lives, the history of the time, and a blow-by-blow examination of the assassination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



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