

Recommended Juvenile Nonfiction

Juvenile Selections

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[19 Varieties of Gazelle: poems of the Middle East](#)

by Nye, Naomi Shihab

J 811.54 NYE

Naomi Shihab Nye has been writing about being Arab-American, about Jerusalem, about the West Bank, about family all her life. These new and collected poems of the Middle East -- sixty in all -- appear together here for the first time.

[Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry](#)

by Nelson, Scott Reynolds

J 973.0496 NEL

Historian Scott Reynolds Nelson recounts how he came to discover the real John Henry, an African-American railroad worker who became a legend in the famous song.

[An American plague: the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793](#)

by Murphy, Jim

J 614.541 MUR

Recreates the devastation rendered to the city of Philadelphia in 1793 by an incurable disease known as yellow fever, detailing the major social and political events as well as the time's medical beliefs and practices.

[Black and White Airmen: Their True History](#)

by Fleischman, John

J 940.5449 FLE

John Lehr and Herb Heilbrun grew up in the same neighborhood and were elementary school classmates, they didn't become friends, because Herb was white and John was black. They led parallel lives as both enlisted during WWII: Herb became an Army Air Forces B-17 bomber pilot and John flew P-51 fighters. They were segregated from one another until almost seventy years later when they became acquainted and then best friends--an interesting story of racism, war, and friendship.

[Boy: Tales of Childhood](#)

by Dahl, Roald

J BIO DAHL

Dahl tells the story of his adventures and misadventures as a child: his involvement in the Great Mouse Plot of 1924; his first automobile ride, in which he nearly lost his nose; his many canings by Headmasters; and his vacations at home in Wales with his big family.

[Children of the Wild West](#)

by Freedman, Russell

J 973.8 FRE

Historical photographs with explanatory text present a picture of life in the American West from 1840 to the early 1900s, written by a foremost historian.

[Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder](#)

by Wick, Walter

J 546.22 WIC

Describes the origins, characteristics, and uses of water. <div class="clear"></div>

[Eggs](#)

by Singer, Marilyn

J 591.4 SIN

Explains the varieties, functions, and characteristics of the eggs of a multitude of creatures, including insects, birds, and reptiles.

[Face to Face with Caterpillars](#)

by Murawski, Darlyne A.

J 595.7813 MUR

Ever had an in-your-face encounter with a caterpillar? Darlyne Murawski came eye-to-eye with a spiny caterpillar in Costa Rica and was severely stung by the harmless-looking creepy-crawly. But she still got the picture. It's one of many caterpillar close-ups which illustrate this extraordinary book. Readers learn to study these insects like the experts: witness the astonishing life cycle with its metamorphosis from caterpillar to pupa to butterfly; see the amazing snake-like defenses of some poisonous species; and the silk stitching used by others to build leafy hideaways. Face to Face with Caterpillars encourages an active study of this intriguing insect: How to find caterpillars, how to raise a monarch, how to help preserve their habitats, how to photograph the caterpillar, and how to learn more; it's all in Darlyne Murawski's fun book

[Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey](#)

by Kalman, Maira

J 974.7104 KAL

The fireboat, launched in 1931, was retired after many years of fighting fires along the Hudson River, but jumps into service when New York Fire Department on September 11, 2001 called out for help. Read about how the brave fire fighters and the John J. Harvey.

[House of a Million Pets](#)

by Hodgman, Ann

J 636.0887 HOD

Ann Hodgman's basement is home to three guinea pigs, a cage full of birds, a big gray rabbit, a prairie dog, a bulbul (look it up), two little rabbits, a hamster, and twenty-six pygmy mice. And that's just the basement. Would your parents ever let you have that many pets at once? If Ann Hodgman were your parents, she'd let you. Here is the true story of what it's like to live in her barnyard er, house; with more animals than you'll be able to keep track of. Any kid (or adult) who has ever owned or wanted a pet will love these furry, feathered, slimy, and scaly stories.

[Inside Outside Book of Libraries](#)

by Munro, Roxie

J 027.073 MUN

Illustrations and brief text present all kinds of libraries, from bookmobiles and home libraries to the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.

[Invisible Thread](#)

by Uchida, Yoshiko

J B UCH

Children's author, Yoshiko Uchida, describes growing up in Berkeley, California, as a Nisei, second generation Japanese American, and her family's internment in a Nevada concentration camp during World War II.

[It's Perfectly Normal: a book about changing bodies, growing up, sex, and sexual health](#)

by Harris, Robie H

J 613.907 HAR

When young people have questions about sex, real answers can be hard to find. Providing accurate, unbiased answers to nearly every conceivable question, from conception and puberty to birth control and AIDS, It's Perfectly Normal offers young people the real information they need now more than ever to make responsible decisions and to stay healthy.

[Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices](#)

by Fleischman, Paul

J 811 F

A dynamic collection of poems describing the characteristics and activities of a variety of insects that can be performed with two people.

[Lincoln: A Photobiography](#)

by Freedman, Russell

J BIO LINCOLN

Much more than just photographs and text tracing the life of the Civil War President. Find out what he had in his pocket when he was assassinated and what historians think it meant.

[M. L. K.: Journey of a King](#)

by Bolden, Tanya

J BIO KING

Coretta Scott King Honor winner Tonya Bolden focuses her critical eye on Martin Luther King, Jr., bringing words and pictures together to tell the life story of one of America's greatest figures in an inspirational, one-of-a-kind biography. Full color.

[New Way Things Work](#)

by Macaulay, David

J 600 MAC

Text and numerous detailed illustrations introduce and explain the scientific principles and workings of hundreds of machines. Includes new material about digital technology.

[Our Eleanor: a scrapbook look at Eleanor Roosevelt's remarkable life](#)

by Fleming, Candace

J BIO ROOSEVELT

Told in a unique "scrapbook" style, this biography presents Eleanor Roosevelt in her many roles: wife and mother, United Nations delegate, Junior Literary Guild board member, children's author, and civil rights crusader

[Phineas Gage: a gruesome but true story about brain science](#)

by Fleischman, John

J BIO GAGE

In 1848, Gage, a railroad worker was the victim of an accident that blew a 13-pound iron rod through

his head. He maintained consciousness and survived with major personality differences and became the subject of medical investigations.

[Psalm Twenty-Three](#)

by Ladwig, Tim

J 223.205 LAD

The text of the familiar psalm comparing God to a loving shepherd accompanies illustrations which shows the world of love and fear faced by an urban African-American family.

[Race to Save the Lord God Bird](#)

by Hoose, Philip M.

J 598.72 HOO

Tells the story of the ivory-billed woodpecker's extinction in the United States, describing the encounters between this species and humans, and discussing what these encounters have taught us about preserving endangered creatures.

[Real Benedict Arnold](#)

by Murphy, Jim

J BIO ARNOLD

"Drawing on Arnold's surviving writings and on the letters, memoirs, and political documents of his contemporaries ... a fascinating portrait of a brilliant man, consistently undervalued by his peers, who made a choice that continues to reverberate through American history."

[Revenge of the Whale: the true story of the whaleship Essex](#)

by Philbrick, Nathaniel

J 910.9164 PHI

Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship "Essex" by an enraged sperm whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. Based on the author's adult book "In the Heart of the Sea."

[Seed Is Sleepy](#)

by Aston, Dianna Hutts

J 581.467 AST

An informative, yet beautiful, introduction to seeds. <div class="clear"></div>

[Shipwreck at the bottom of the World: the extraordinary true story of Shackleton and the Endurance](#)

by Armstrong, Jennifer

J 919.8904 ARM

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

[Sky Pioneer: A Photobiography of Amelia Earhart](#)

by Szabo, Corinne

J BIO EAR

A biography, with numerous photographs and quotes from Earhart herself, tracing this determined woman's life and interest in flying.

[Soul Surfer: a true story of faith, family, and fighting to get back on the board](#)

by Hamilton, Bethany

J 797.3209 HAM

Bethany Hamilton, a teenage surfer lost her arm in a shark attack off the coast of Kauai, Hawaii. Not even the loss of her arm keeps her from returning to surfing, the sport she loves.

[Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood](#)

by Barakat, Ibtisam

J 956.952 BAR

A woman from Palestine lyrically writes a memoir of her experiences in the six-day war and experiences in the late sixties.

[This Land Is Your Land](#)

by Guthrie, Woody

J 781.62 GUT

This well-known folk song is accompanied by a tribute from folksinger Pete Seeger, the musical notation, and a biographical scrapbook with photographs.

[Through My Eyes](#)

by Bridges, Ruby

J 379.263 BRI

Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.

[Top of the World](#)

by Jenkins, Steve

J 796.522 JEN

Description of a climb to the top of Mt. Everest. <div class="clear"></div>

[Trouble Begins at 8: a life of Mark Twain in the wild, wild West](#)

by Fleischman, Sid

J BIO TWAIN

This lively biography recounts Mark Twain's (Samuel Clemens) life from his birth through his tours through America's Wild West.

[Ultimate Weapon: The Race to Develop the Atomic Bomb](#)

by Sullivan, Edward T.

J 355.8251 SUL

When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the world changed forever. But the story started long before that fateful day, and here Edward T. Sullivan delves into all that led up to it: the scientific developments of the Manhattan Project, the Nazi nuclear arms program, and the massive commitment by the United States to win the nuclear arms race.

[Upon the Head of the Goat](#)

by Siegal, Aranka

J BIO SIEGAL

Recounts the bewilderment of being a Jewish child in Hungary between 1939 and 1944, and relates the ordeal of survival in the ghetto.

[Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the struggle for equal rights](#)

by Freedman, Russell

J BIO ANDERSON

Drawing on Anderson's own writings and other first-person accounts, Newbery medalist Russell Freedman shows readers a singer pursuing her art in the context of the social and political climate of the day. Profusely illustrated with contemporary photographs, here is an inspiring account of the life of a talented, determined artist who left her mark on musical and social history.

[Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain](#)

by Sis, Peter

J BIO SIS

In his most personal work to date, award-winning author Peter Ss offers a brilliant graphic memoir, taking readers on an extraordinary journey as he recalls his youth growing up in Czechoslovakia in the 1960s, when his country was on the Communist side of the Iron Curtain.

[War Boy: a country childhood](#)

by Foreman, Michael

J BIO FOREMAN

Michael Foreman wrote and illustrated his WWII childhood experiences on the British front. <div class="clear"></div>

[Way Things Work](#)

by Macaulay, David

J 600 M

Text and numerous detailed illustrations introduce and explain the scientific principles and workings of hundreds of machines including a lawn sprinkler, pneumatic drill, electric guitar, and a smoke detector.

[Way We Work](#)

by Macaulay, David

J 612 MAC

Macaulay provides a detailed illustrated and written description of the workings of the human body. <div class="clear"></div>

[Who Was First: Discovering the Americas](#)

by Freedman, Russell

J 970.01 FRE

Many generations of American schoolchildren were taught that Columbus discovered America, and a holiday reminds us every October. But historical investigation in recent years has shown us otherwise. There is evidence that adventurers, explorers, traders, and nomads from various parts of the globe set foot on American soil long before 1492. And expeditions that landed in the Americas reported people already living there—indicating that America had been “discovered” before. Colorful legends and first-person accounts are woven into the riveting narrative, which also illuminates the way historians and mapmakers have gathered, evaluated, and recorded information throughout the ages.

[Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane](#)

by Freedman, Russell

J 629.13 FRE

An amazing experience awaits those interested in seeing the original photographs the Wright brothers took of themselves flying; they took turns flying and taking the photographs. "The Wright Brothers"

follows their lives and describes how they developed the first airplane.

[Zlata's Diary: a child's life in Sarajevo](#)

by Filipovic, Zlata

J 949.742 FIL

The war in Sarajevo began eight months after Zlata began her diary, and Zlata describes her peril and her fear.