Recommended Non-Fiction Titles



Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting It Done by Andrea Gonzales YA 005.1 GON

Girl Code is the story of two teenage tech phenoms who met at Girls Who Code summer camp, teamed up to create a viral video game, and ended up becoming world famous. Through the success of their video game, Andy and Sophie got unprecedented access to some of the biggest start-ups and tech companies, and now they're sharing what they've seen. Get ready for an inside look at the tech industry, the true power of coding, and some of the amazing women who are shaping the world.

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The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater

YA 364.15 SLA

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, 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. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment.



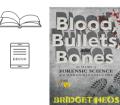
How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child by Sandra Uwiringivimana YA 967.572 UWI

Sandra was ten vears old when she found watched as rebels oun down her mother and six-vear-old sister in a refugee camp. Remarkably, Sandra escaped. Thus began a new life for her and her surviving family members. With no home and no money, they struggled to stay alive. Eventually, through a United Nations refugee program, they moved to America, only to face ethnic disconnect. In this memoir, Sandra tells the story of her survival, of finding her place in a new country, of her hope for the future, and how she found a way to give voice to her people.



Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam by Elizabeth Partridge YA 959.704 PAR

In March 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson sent troops into Vietnam. 57,939 American soldiers would be killed and seventeen years would pass before this controversial chapter of American history concluded with the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982. The history of this era is complex; the cultural impact extraordinary. This book features the personal stories of eight people-six American soldiers, one American nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee. From dense jungles and terrifying firefights to chaotic medic rescues and evacuations, each individual's story reveals a different facet of the war.



Blood, Bullets, and Bones by Bridget Heos YA 363.25 HEO

Forensic analysis has been practiced for thousands of years. Ancient Chinese detectives studied dead bodies for signs of foul play, and in Victorian England, officials used crime scene photography and criminal profiling to investigate the Jack the Ripper murders. In the intervening decades, forensic science has evolved to use the most cutting-edge, innovative techniques and technologies. This book uses real-life cases to tell the fascinating history of modern forensic science, from the first test for arsenic poisoning to fingerprinting, firearm and blood spatter analysis, DNA evidence, and all the important milestones in between.



Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune by Pamela S. Turner YA 952 TUR

Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. When Yoshitsune was just a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family and lost. His father was killed, his mother captured, and his surviving half-brother banished. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. When the time came for the Minamoto clan to rise up against their enemies, Yoshitsune answered the call. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality.



The Nazi Hunters YA 364.15 BAS

bv Neal Bascomb

In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials-one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination.



Laughing at my Nightmare by Shane Burcaw YA 617.4 BUR

Shane Burcaw describes the challenges he faces as a twenty-one-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy. From awkward handshakes to having a girlfriend and everything in between, Shane handles his situation with humor and a "you-only-live-once" perspective on life. While he does talk about everyday issues, he also offers an eye-opening perspective on what it is like to have a life-threatening disease.



The Family Romanov YA 947.08 FLE

by Candace Fleming

Here is the tumultuous, heartrending, true story of the Romanovs-at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first-person accounts, awardwinning author Candace Fleming (Amelia Lost; The Lincolns) deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read as well as a perfect resource for meeting Common Core standards.



Bootleg : Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition YA 363.4 BLU

It began with the best of intentions. Worried about the effects of alcohol on American families, mothers and civic leaders started a movement to outlaw drinking in public places. Over time, their protests, petitions, and activism paid off-when a Constitutional Amendment banning the sale and consumption of alcohol was ratified. Instead, it began a decade of lawlessness, when children smuggled (and drank) illegal alcohol, the most upright citizens casually broke the law, and a host of notorious gangsters entered the public eye. This fascinating book looks at the rise and fall of the disastrous social experiment known as Prohibition.

by Karen Blumenthal



The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and The Plot to Kill Hitler bv Iohn Hendrix YA B BONHOEFFER

The Faithful Spy tells the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his fight against the oppression of the German people during World War II. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was shocked to watch the German church embrace Hitler's agenda of hatred. He spoke out against the Nazi party and led a breakaway church that rebelled against racist and nationalist beliefs of the Third Reich. Struggling with how his faith interacted with his ethics, Bonhoeffer eventually became convinced that Hitler and the Nazi Party needed to be stopped-and he was willing to sacrifice anything and everything to do so.



Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation by Anne Frank YA GRAPHIC NOVEL FRANK

A graphic novel adaptation of Anne Frank's extraordinary diary, written in the Amsterdam attic where she and her family hid from the Nazis for two years. She is a teenage girl-stubbornly honest, touchingly vulnerable, in love with life. Facing hunger, fear of discovery and death, and the petty frustrations of such confined quarters, Anne writes with adult wisdom and views beyond her years.



The Radium Girls YA 363.1799 MOO

by Kate Moore

Amidst the excitement of the early twentieth century, hundreds of young women spend their days hard at work painting watch dials for troops overseas using glow-in-the-dark paint made with radium. They are well paid and consider themselves lucky-until they begin to fall mysteriously ill. As the corporations try to cover up a shocking secret, these determined shining girls suddenly find themselves at the center of a historic and deadly scandal.



Notes from a Young Black Chef YA B ONWUACHI

by Kwame Onwuachi

Food was Kwame Onwuachi's first great love. He connected to cooking via his mother, in the family's modest Bronx apartment. From that spark, he launched his own catering company with twenty thousand dollars he made selling candy on the subway and trained in the kitchens of some of the most acclaimed restaurants in the country. He faced many challenges on the road to success, including breaking free of a dangerous downward spiral due to temptation and easy money, and grappling with just how unwelcoming the world of fine dining can be for people of color. Born on Long Island and raised in New York City, Nigeria, and Louisiana, Kwame Onwuachi's incredible story is one of survival and ingenuity in the face of adversity.



Queer, There and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World by Sarah Prager YA 306 PRA

World history has been made by countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals—and you've never heard of many of them. This book delves deep into the lives of 23 people who fought, created, and loved on their own terms. From high-profile figures like Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt to the trailblazing genderambiguous Queen of Sweden and a bisexual blues singer who didn't make it into your history books, these astonishing true stories uncover a rich queer heritage that encompasses every culture, in every era.



Super Late Bloomer: My Early Days in Transition by Julia Kaye YA GRAPHIC NOVEL KAYE

When Julia Kaye began her gender transition in 2016, she decided to use her popular webcomic, Up and Out, to process her journey and help others with similar struggles realize they weren't alone. Julia's comics honestly depict her personal ups and downs while dealing with the various issues involved in transitioning—from struggling with self-acceptance and challenging societal expectations, to moments of self-love and joy.



Bomb: The Race to Build–and Steal–the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Shenikin YA 623.4 SHE

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. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. 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.



From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry by Paula Yoo YA 305.895 YOO

Fueled by Anti–Asian American sentiment, a bar fight in 1982 turns fatal, leaving a Chinese American man, Vincent Chin, beaten to death at the hands of two white men, autoworker Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz. When Ebens and Nitz pled guilty to manslaughter and received only a \$3,000 fine and three years' probation, the lenient sentence sparked outrage. The protests that followed led to a federal civil rights trial—the first involving a crime against an Asian American—and galvanized what came to be known as the Asian American movement.



Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers by Michelle Obama YA B OBAMA

This volume for young people is an honest and fascinating account of Michelle Obama's life led by example. She shares her views on how all young people can help themselves as well as help others, no matter their status in life. She asks readers to realize that no one is perfect, and that the process of becoming is what matters, as finding yourself is ever evolving. In telling her story with boldness, she asks: Who are you, and what do you want to become?



Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood by Gary Paulsen YA B PAULSEN

Gary Paulsen weaves a different sort of survival story—the true account of how he himself survived his own turbulent childhood. If not for his shocking summer escape from a neglectful Chicago upbringing to a North Woods homestead at age five, there never would have been a Hatchet. Without the encouragement of the librarian who handed him his first book at age thirteen, he may never have become a reader. And without his desperate teenage enlistment in the military, he might not have discovered his true calling as a storyteller.



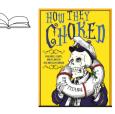
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Clubby Phillip HooseYA 940.53 HOOYA 940.53 HOO

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteenyear-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance.



The Electric War: Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse and the Race to Light the World by Mike Winchell YA 621.3 WIN

In the mid-to-late-nineteenth century, fiery war was under way to be the first to light—and run—the world with electricity. Thomas Alva Edison, the inventor of direct current (DC), engaged in a brutal battle with Nikola Tesla and George Westinghouse, the inventors of alternating current (AC). There would be no ties in this bout—only a winner and a loser. The prize: a nationwide monopoly in electric current. Brimming with action, suspense, and rich historical and biographical information about these inventors, here is the rousing account of one of the world's defining scientific competitions.



How They Choked: Failures, Flops, and Flaws of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg YA 920 BRA

Over the course of history, famous people made mistakes that were so monumental they could never escape them, no matter how brilliant their successes! Ferdinand Magellan is credited as the first man to sail around the world . . . but he only actually made it halfway. His terrible treatment of everyone he met cut his life journey short. Queen Isabella of Spain is remembered for financing Columbus's expeditions—and for creating the Spanish Inquisition. J. Bruce Ismay commissioned the unsinkable marvel of the sea, the Titanic—and then jumped the line of women and children to escape death on a lifeboat.

Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive by Laura Hillenbrand YA 940.54 HIL

On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary sagas of the Second World War.



UNBROKEN

HILLENBRAND

The Acid King by Jesse P. Pollack

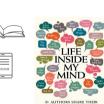
YA 364.152 POL

On June 19, 1984, seventeen-year-old Ricky Kasso murdered Gary Lauwers in what local police and the international press dubbed a "Satanic Sacrifice." What this case revealed were bigger problems lurking at the heart of suburban America. Ricky Kasso wasn't a bad kid, but he was lost. To feel better, he started smoking pot, moving on from that to PCP and LSD. He ended up living on the streets and thinking he had nothing to lose. Gary Lauwers went from being a victim of bullying to using drugs to fit in, and finally robbery—but then he made the mistake of stealing from Ricky, and from that moment on, his fate was sealed. A few months later, Gary went into the woods behind the park with Ricky and two other boys. Only three of them came out.

Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz by Michael Bornstein YA 940.53 BOR

In 1945, in a now-famous piece of archival footage, four-year-old Michael Bornstein was filmed by Soviet soldiers as he was carried out of Auschwitz in his grandmother's arms. Survivors Club tells the unforgettable story of how a father's courageous wit, a mother's fierce love, and one perfectly timed illness saved Michael's life, and how others in his family from Zarki, Poland, dodged death at the hands of the Nazis time and again with incredible deftness. Working from his own recollections as well as extensive interviews with relatives and survivors who knew the family, Michael relates his inspirational story with the help of his daughter, Debbie Bornstein Holinstat.

edited by Jessica Burkhart



Life Inside My Mind: 31 Authors Share Their Personal Struggles YA 616.89 LIF

Have you ever felt like you just couldn't get out of bed every single day? Do you find yourself listening to a voice in your head that says "you're not good enough," "not good-looking enough," "not thin enough," or "not smart enough?" You're not alone. Millions of people are going through similar things. And many of them are people you know—you know them because they write the books that you're reading. This book takes aim at ending the shame of mental illness. With the intention of providing hope to those who are suffering, awareness to those who are witnessing a friend or family member battle mental illness, and opening conversations about mental illness.

In the Shado YA 920.0092 D Did you know th Through the pow the record strain

In the Shadow of Liberty by Kenneth Davis YA 920.0092 DAV

Did you know that many of America's Founding Fathers—who fought for liberty and justice for all—were slave owners? Through the powerful stories of five enslaved people who were "owned" by four of our greatest presidents, this book helps set the record straight about the role slavery played in the founding of America. From Billy Lee, valet to George Washington, to Alfred Jackson, faithful servant of Andrew Jackson, these dramatic narratives explore our country's great tragedy—that a nation "conceived in liberty" was also born in shackles. These stories help us know the real people who were essential to the birth of this nation but traditionally have been left out of the history books. Their stories are true—and they should be heard.



Banned Book Club by Hyun Sook Kim YA GRAPHIC NOVEL KIM

Kim Hyun Sook is just starting college in 1983 during civil protests in South Korea. Though she wants to go to college to learn, she quickly realizes there's a difference between what she wants to learn and what the government wants her to learn.