



Africa



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The following list is a sampling of the books we have on this subject. Children's, teen, and adult books are included here. Students and their parents should choose the books that are most appropriate for them.

BOOKS ABOUT THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

African Mythology Rocks!

by Linda Jacobs Altman

YA 398.2096 ALT

Passed down through the generations, African myths were kept alive by a strong oral tradition. Author Linda Jacobs Altman weaves together traditional tales from seven different cultural groups, including those of Nigeria, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, the Kalahari, and Ghana. 112 pages

The Last Train to Zona Verde

by Paul Theroux

916.0432 THE

A travel writer journeys through western Africa from Cape Town to the Congo. 353 pages

Africa: Natural Spirit of the African Continent

by Gill Davies

960 DAV

This beautifully illustrated book takes a journey through the majestic continent of Africa, exploring people, places, and animals in greatly contrasting habitats. 256 pages

Africana

by Kim Chakanetsa

YA 960.03 CHA

Explore the deep history of Africa's 54 unique countries, from being the birthplace of humanity and the rise of its kingdoms, to the devastating impact of its colonial past. 89 pages

Empires in the Sun

by Lawrence James

960.23 JAM

In this compelling history of the men and ideas that radically changed the course of world history, James investigates and analyzes how, within 100 years, Europeans persuaded and coerced Africa into becoming a subordinate part of the modern world. 391 pages

The Bright Continent

by Dayo Olopade

967.033 OLO

A Nigerian-American journalist attempts to dispel the warring, impoverished, and pitiful images of Africa so prevalent in the media with the joyful and innovative country she knows. 272 pages

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

by William Kamkwamba

BIO KAMKWAMB

When fourteen-year-old William's village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. William spent his days in the library and learned how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and became the boy who harnessed the wind. 273 pages

BOOKS BY COUNTRY OR REGION

Botswana

No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

by Alexander McCall Smith

MYSTERY MCCALL SMITH

Working in Botswana, Precious Ramotswa investigates several local mysteries, including a search for a missing boy and the case of the clinic doctor with different personalities for different days of the week. 235 pages

Botswana

by Sara Louise Kras

YA 968.83 KRA

Learn about the geography, people, government, culture, history, religion, economy, and wildlife of Botswana. 144 pages

Burundi

Small Country

by Gaël Faye

F FAYE

In 1992 Burundi, 10-year-old Gabriel enjoys his carefree days, but those days and his innocence come to a brutal end when Burundi and neighboring Rwanda are hit with civil war and genocide. 183 pages

This Voice in My Heart

by Gilbert Tuhabonye

967.572 TUH

The sole survivor of an act of genocide that killed more than one hundred Tutsi children, the author, now a world-class athlete, describes his experiences, his remarkable survival and escape, and his odyssey from devastation to a new life. 260 pages

The Night the Angels Came

by Chrissie Chapman

BIO CHAPMAN

Trained as a midwife, Chrissie Chapman went to Burundi in the 90s to open a maternity clinic and dispensary. While she was there, the country descended into a civil war. With prayer, persistence, and tremendous trust in miracles and the protection of angels, Chapman worked tirelessly through it all. 191 pages

The Tears of a Man Flow Inward

by Pacifique Irankunda

BIO IRANKUND

Pacifique Irankunda's childhood in Burundi was marked by a 13-year civil war. Drawing on his own memories and those of his family, Paci tells a story of survival in a country whose rich traditions were lost to the ravages of colonialism and ethnic strife. 189 pages

Democratic Republic of the Congo

City of Saints and Thieves

by Natalie C. Anderson

YA F ANDERSON

Sixteen-year-old Tina and two friends leave Kenya and slip into the Congo, from where she and her mother fled years before, seeking revenge for her mother's murder. 401 pages

Cobalt Red

by Siddharth Kara

338.2748 KAR

An unflinching investigation reveals the human rights abuses behind the Congo's cobalt mining operation--and the moral implications that affect us all. Through the testimonies of the Congolese people, Kara exposes the brutal and inhumane conditions of those who suffer so the world can have our lithium-ion batteries. 274 pages

Congo Stories

by John Prendergast

967.5103 PRE

Documents the stories of Congolese who are building a better future for their country and overcoming enormous odds to go to school and care for their families. 334 pages

How Dare the Sun Rise

by Sandra Uwiringiyimana

YA BIO UWIRINGI

The author shares the story of her survival of the Gatumba massacre, despite losing her sister, and how after moving to America she found healing through art and activism. 288 pages

Egypt

Egypt: A Short History

by Robert L. Tignor

962 TIG

Provides a brief overview of Egyptian history. 363 pages

The Nile

by Toby Wilkinson

962 WIL

Follow the Nile and learn how it continues to hold the key to understanding the earliest of the great ancient civilizations as well as the volatile and rapidly modernizing country that is Egypt today. 292 pages

Cleopatra's Daughter

by Jane Draycott

BIO CLEOPATR

Shares the story of Cleopatra Selene, the daughter of the infamous Cleopatra. Although born in her mother's court and captured by August Caesar, she emerged as an influential ruler in her own right. 328 pages

It Won't Always Be Like This

by Malaka Gharib

GRAPHIC NOVELS BIO GHARIB

An intimate graphic memoir about an American girl growing up with her Egyptian father's new family, forging unexpected bonds and navigating adolescence in an unfamiliar country. 222 pages

Ethiopia

Black Dove, White Raven

by Elizabeth Wein

YA F WEIN

Having moved to Ethiopia to avoid the prejudices of 1930s America, Emilia Menotti, her black adoptive brother Teo, and their mother Rhoda, a stunt pilot, are devoted to their new country even after war with Italy looms, drawing the teens into the conflict. 357 pages

Ethiopia

by Ann Heinrichs

YA 963 HEI

Describes the geography history culture industry and people of Ethiopia. 144 pages

The Wife's Tale

by Aida Edemariam

BIO YETEMEGN

A memoir of Yetemengu, a woman who lived in Ethiopia amidst Fascist invasion, Allied bombardment, revolution, and civil war. She tells of parenthood, her husband's imprisonment, death of children, and her fight for justice in the landscape and culture of Ethiopia. 314 pages

Ivory Coast Aya

by Marguerite Aboutet

GRAPHIC NOVELS ABOUTET

Explore 1978 Ivory Coast through the story of Aya, a studious and clear-sighted 19-year-old, along with her friends and family at a time of prosperity and stability in West Africa. 344 pages

Ivory Coast in Pictures

by Janice Hamilton

YA 966.68 HAM

Discusses the geography, history and government, people, cultural life, and economy of the Ivory Coast, West Africa's second richest nation. 80 pages

Kenya

Circling the Sun

by Paula McLain

F MCLAIN

Tells the life story of Beryl Markham, who worked as a horse trainer, adventurer, and aviator in Kenya. After her mother's abandonment and her father's bankruptcy, she becomes an unconventional force to be reckoned with in the small British expat colony. 366 pages

The Hope Raisers

by Nihar Suthar

YA 307.3364 SUT

This book reveals the impact a few individuals can have on their community, even in the most challenging conditions. Daniel, a boy from Kenya, created a band called the Hope Raisers which inspired the kids of Korogocho to express themselves through music, art, and sports rather than resorting to crime. 179 pages

Play Like a Girl

by Ellie Roscher

362.8808 ROS

The story of how a soccer school has inspired the young women of Kibera to become advocates for change within their own communities and for Kenya as a whole. 206 pages

Kenya

by Michael Burgan

YA 967.62 BUR

Discusses the history, geography, and people of Kenya as well as the country's rich culture. 144 pages

City of Thorns

by Ben Rawlence

967.7305 RAW

Rawlence interweaves the stories of nine individuals to show what life is like in the Dadaab refugee camp and to sketch the wider political forces that keep the refugees trapped there. 384 pages

Unbowed

by Wangari Maathai

BIO MAATHAI

The recipient of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize describes her life as a feminist, political activist, and environmentalist in Kenya, detailing her role in the transformation of Kenya's government. 314 pages

We Share the Sun

by Sarah Gearhart

BIO SANG

An enlightening biography and gripping sports narrative that takes us behind the scenes into the lives of some of the world's most elite runners in Kenya and their coach, Patrick Sang. 216 pages

Love, Life, and Elephants

by Daphne Sheldrick

BIO SHELDRIC

A conservationist who has dedicated her life to saving orphan elephants in Africa describes her relationships with her late husband, Tsavo Park warden David Sheldrick, and a host of animals. 334 pages

Liberia

Madame President

by Helene Cooper

BIO JOHNSON-SIRLEAF

The extraordinary story of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's rise from the clutches of domestic violence to become an international banking executive, political icon, president of Liberia, and Nobel Peace prize winner. 320 pages

The Dragons, the Giant, the Women

by Wayétu Moore

BIO MOORE

When war breaks out in Liberia, Wayétu and her family flee their home, walking and hiding for three weeks. A rebel soldier smuggles them to Sierra Leone, where they begin a journey to the United States. 251 pages

Mali

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu

by Joshua Hammer

025.8209 HAM

In order to save precious Arabic texts from Al Qaeda, a group of librarians pull off a brazen heist. 278 pages

Morocco

Tangerine

by Christine Mangan

F MANGAN

After arriving in Tangier with her husband, Alice is reunited with an old friend who introduces her to the culture of Morocco, but she begins to question everything when her husband disappears. 308 pages

The Caliph's House

by Tahir Shah

964.3805 SHA

Shah and his family move to Morocco and purchase the Caliph's house, which is said to be haunted. 349 pages

Years of Glory

by Susan Gilson Miller

YA BIO BENATAR

The compelling true story of Nelly Benatar—a hero of the anti-Fascist North African resistance and humanitarian who changed the course of history for the "last million" escaping the Second World War. 230 pages

Nigeria

The Girl with the Louding Voice

by Abi Daré

F DARE

A teenage girl growing up in rural Nigeria longs for an education but is sold to a local man as his wife. After she escapes, she discovers her only option is to be a slave. But despite her misfortunes, Adunni finds the resolve to speak until she is heard. 368 pages

Stay with Me

by Ayobami Adebayo

F ADEBAYO

A married Nigerian couple grapples with loss and betrayal in order to create a family of their own. 257 pages

How You Grow Wings

by Rimma Onoseta

YA F ONOSETA

Two sisters in Nigeria are separated--one in the lap of luxury, the other fighting for a chance to survive--in this award-winning novel where the line between family and foe is blurred. 330 pages

Beneath the Tamarind Tree

by Isha Sesay

363.325 SES

A definitive account of Boko Haram's 2014 abduction of 276 Chibok schoolgirls, including first-person insights based on the author's escape with 21 other survivors. 382 pages

Rwanda

Children Growing Up with War

by Jenny Matthews

YA 303.6608 MAT

Provides a candid look at young lives upended by violence and strife around the world, including Rwanda. 48 pages

Genocide in Rwanda

by Frank Spalding

YA 967.571 SPA

A history of modern Rwanda focused primarily on the Rwandan genocide that occurred from April to July in 1994 and its aftermath. 64 pages

Escape from Rwanda

by John Yves Bizimana

BIO BIZIMANA

Describes the author's experience of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, horrifying escape, and subsequent experiences as a refugee. 144 pages

Left to Tell

by Immaculee Ilibagiza

BIO ILIBAGIZ

Presents the true story of a woman who endures the murder of her family as a result of genocide in Rwanda and turns to prayer for strength, love, and forgiveness. 215 pages

Sierra Leone

A Long Way Gone

by Ishmael Beah

YA BIO BEAH

The author recounts his time fighting as a child soldier in Sierra Leone. 229 pages

Bite of the Mango

by Mariatu Kamara

YA BIO KAMARA

When Mariatu set out for a neighborhood village in Sierra Leone, she was kidnapped and tortured, and both of her hands were cut off. She turned to begging to survive. This heart-rending memoir is a testament to her courage and resilience. 216 pages

Somalia

Somalia in Pictures

by Janice Hamilton

YA 967.73 HAM

Learn about Somalia and the people through pictures and text. 80 pages

Call Me American

by Abdi Nor Iftin

YA BIO IFTIN

Adapted from the adult memoir, this gripping and acclaimed story follows one boy's journey into young adulthood, against the backdrop of civil war and his ultimate immigration to America, in search of a better life. 255 pages

South Africa

The Eternal Audience of One

by Rémy Ngamije

F NGAMIJE

This profoundly moving and humane coming-of-age tale follows a young man who is forced to flee his homeland of Rwanda during the Civil War and make sense of his reality in Cape Town, South Africa. 376 pages

South Africa

by Ike Rosmarin

YA 968 ROS

This book explores the geography, history, government, economy, people, and culture of South Africa. It contains vibrant photographs, maps, and timelines presenting the past and present of the country. 144 pages

Playing the Enemy

by John Carlin

968.065 CAR

Nelson Mandela's decade-long campaign to unite his country, beginning in his jail cell and ending with a rugby tournament. John Carlin, a former South Africa bureau chief for the London Independent, offers a portrait of the greatest statesman of our time in action. 274 pages

Nelson Mandela

by Beatrice Gormley

YA BIO MANDELA

From Nelson Mandela's childhood to his monumental impact on race relations and nonviolent activism, this comprehensive biography shares the truth about the man behind the iconic smile: his struggles, his triumphs, and the sacrifices along the way. 247 pages

Born a Crime

by Trevor Noah

BIO NOAH

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. 288 pages

Mandela and the General

by John Carlin

GRAPHIC NOVELS 968.064 CAR

In this thrilling graphic novel, Nelson Mandela's fight against racism is about to spiral into an all-out race war. Unless he can win over his archenemy, the white supremacist General Viljoen, the democratic struggle for equality and justice in South Africa will end in "the peace of graveyards." 105 pages

All Rise

by Richard Conyngham

YA COMICS 968.05 CON

This comic revives six true stories of resistance by marginalized South Africans against the country's colonial government in the years leading up to Apartheid. From immigrants and miners to tram workers and washerwomen, the everyday people in these stories bore the brunt of oppression and in some cases risked their lives to bring about positive change for future generations. 248 pages

Sudan

A Long Walk to Water

by Linda Sue Park

YA F PARK

Eleven-year-old Salva is separated from his family during the Sudanese civil war and walks through Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. 121 pages

Lost Boy, Lost Girl

by John Bul Dau and Martha Arual Akech

YA 962.4043 DAU

John Bul Dau survived hunger and violence. His wife endured similar hardships. In this book, the two convey the best of African values while relating searing accounts of famine and war. 159 pages

They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky

by Alephonsion Deng

962.4043 DEN

Across Sudan, between 1987 and 1989, tens of thousands of young boys took flight from Sudan's civil war.

They walked nearly 1,000 miles, sustained only by the sheer will to live. This book is the three boys' account of that unimaginable journey. 311 pages

Out of Exile

by Craig Walzer

YA 962.7043 OUT

Refugees and abductees recount their escapes from the wars in Darfur and South Sudan and describe life in the major stations on the refugee railroads. 435 pages

Don't Look Back

by Achut Deng

YA BIO DENG

After a deadly attack in South Sudan left six-year-old Achut Deng without a family, she lived in refugee camps for ten years, until a refugee relocation program gave her the opportunity to move to the United States. When asked why she should be given a chance to leave the camp, Achut simply said: I want life. 345 pages

Uganda

The Queen of Katwe

by Tim Crothers

BIO MUTESI

The astonishing true story of Phiona Mutesi, a teenager from the slums of Kampala, Uganda, who, inspired by an unlikely mentor—a war refugee turned missionary—becomes an international chess champion. 232 pages

Zimbabwe

All That It Ever Meant

by Blessing Musariri

YA F MUSARIRI

Reeling from the death of her mother, 14-year-old Mati's family leaves England to visit their native Zimbabwe, where Mati finds comfort in a gender-neutral spirit who only she can see, and who helps her navigate her relationships and feelings of grief. 176 pages

Now Is the Time for Running

by Michael Williams

YA F WILLIAMS

When soldiers attack a small village in Zimbabwe, Deo goes on the run with Innocent, his older, mentally disabled brother, carrying little but a leather soccer ball filled with money. After facing prejudice, poverty, and tragedy, it is in soccer that Deo finds renewed hope. 233 pages

I Will Always Write Back

by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda

YA 305.235 ALI

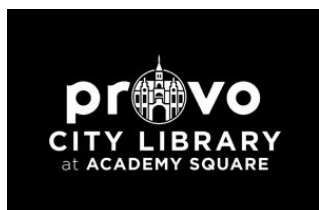
The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. 392 pages

I Am a Girl from Africa

by Elizabeth Nyamayaro

BIO NYAMAYARO

A memoir of an African girl whose near-death experience sparked a lifelong dedication to humanitarian work that helped bring change across the world. 261 pages



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