



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.

Benny and Omar

by Eoin Colfer

YA F COLFER

Two boys in Africa, one recently moved from Britain and the other one a native, quickly develop a friendship and turn the village upside down, until real life tests them both. 237 pages

Say You're One of Them

by Uwem Akpan

F AKPAN

This singular collection of five stories takes the reader inside Nigeria, Benin, and Ethiopia, revealing in beautiful prose the harsh consequences of life in Africa for children. 358 pages

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 in Timbuktu, Mali pull off a brazen heist worthy of Ocean's 11. 278 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

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

Race for Timbuktu

by Frank T. Kryza

966.23 KRY

Chronicles the true story of Major Alexander Gordon Laing and the race to discover Timbuktu during the early part of the 19th century, an era when the African continent was still largely uncharted. 322 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 by highlighting the commercial opportunities and technological innovations to be found there. 272 pages

King Peggy

by Peggien Bartels

BIO BARTELS

"King Peggy" is the charming real-life fairy tale of an American secretary who discovers she has been chosen king of an impoverished fishing village on the west coast of Africa. 333 pages

Love, Africa

by Jeffery Gettleman

BIO GETTLEMA

A seasoned war correspondent, Gettleman has served as the East Africa bureau chief for the New York Times for the past decade, fulfilling a teenage dream. In college at age 19, he fell in love with East Africa and a fellow Cornell student, and would be torn between these two opposite passions for a decade. 325 pages

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

by William Kamkwamba

BIO KAMKWAMB

This immensely engaging tale relates how an enterprising teenager in Malawi builds a windmill from scraps he finds around his village and brings electricity--and a future--to his family. 273 pages

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 becomes an international chess champion inspired by an unlikely mentor, a war refugee turned missionary. 232 pages

Njinga of Angola

by Linda M. Heywood

BIO NJINGA

One of history's most multifaceted rulers but little known in the West, Queen Njinga rivaled Elizabeth I and Catherine the Great in political cunning and military prowess. Today, she is revered in Angola as a heroine and honored in folk religions. 310 pages

Books by Country or Region

Botswana

No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

by Alexander McCall Smith

MYSTERY MCCALL SMITH

Working in Botswana, Precious Ramotswe 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

Whatever You Do, Don't Run

by Peter Allison

BIO ALLISON

A safari guide shares true tales from his forays into Botswana and neighboring countries, including tales of spending the night in a tree with marauding hyenas below and finding a leopard in his tent with him. 246 pages

Twenty Chickens for a Saddle

by Robyn Scott

BIO SCOTT

At the age of seven, Robyn Scott moved with her family from New Zealand to Botswana. While growing up in Botswana was fairly idyllic, the family was also aware of the darker undercurrents of life in Africa. 453 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

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

Empty Hands, Open Arms

by Deni Ellis Bechard

599.885 BEC

A fascinating account of one NGO's surprisingly successful efforts to save the endangered bonobo great apes and the Congolese rainforest they call home. 330 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

In a Perfect World

by Trish Doller

YA F DOLLER

When her mother establishes an eye clinic for the poor in Cairo, 17-year-old Caroline has to move with her. While there, she encounters a culture, a city, and a boy who challenge her thoughts on love, faith, and privilege. 294 pages

Egypt: A Short History

by Robert L. Tignor

962 TIG

Provides a brief overview of Egyptian history. 363 pages

The Nile: A Journey Downriver Through Egypt's Past and Present

by Toby Wilkinson

962 WIL

Renowned Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson takes us along the Nile to reveal 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

Revolution for Dummies

by Bassem Youssef

BIO YOUSSEF

Bassem Youssef recounts his life and offers hysterical riffs on the hypocrisy, instability, and corruption that have long animated Egyptian politics. 284 pages

Ethiopia

Refugee 87

by Ele Fountain

YA F FOUNTAIN

Fourteen-year-old Shif and his best friend Bini embark from Ethiopia on a cross-continent journey of survival after they are imprisoned and become refugees. 247 pages

Notes from the Hyena's Belly

by Nega Mezlekia

963.2 MEZ

The author recalls his childhood in Ethiopia interspersed with information about the customs and everyday life in his hometown of Jijiga. 355 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: Life in Yop City

by Marguerite Abouet

GRAPHIC NOVELS ABOUET

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

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, where she becomes a force to be reckoned with in the small British expat colony. 366 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 Muta 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

Love, Life, and Elephants

by Daphne Sheldrick

BIO SHELDRIK

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 Wayetu Moore

BIO MOORE

When war breaks out in Liberia, Wayetu 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

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

In Arabian Nights

by Tahir Shah

BIO SHAH

Travel writer Shah shares stories and experiences of his time in Morocco. 388 pages

Nigeria

Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree

by Adaobi Nwaubani

YA F NWAUBANI

The simple dreams of a girl are shattered when her Nigerian village is attacked by a terrorist group. Kidnapped along with other girls and women, she is forced to follow her captors' radical beliefs. As impossible as escape may seem, she must fight for her life and her future. 330 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

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

Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You

by Hanna Jansen

YA F JANSEN

When war broke out in Rwanda, Jeanne, a Tutsi girl, fled her home with her family. However, only Jeanne managed to survive. Based on Jeanne's true story, this book tells of the events of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. 342 pages

Genocide in Rwanda

by Frank Spalding

YA 967.571 SPA

A history of modern Rwanda focused primarily on the Rwandan genocide 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

An Ordinary Man

by Paul Rusesabagina

BIO RUSESABA

The author describes how he utilized his position as a hotel manager in violence-stricken Rwanda to offer shelter to more than 12,000 members of the Tutsi clan and Hutu moderates. 207 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

Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday

by Natalie C. Anderson

YA F ANDERSON

Forced to be a child soldier, 16-year-old Somali refugee Abdi must confront his painful past. 458 pages

Somalia in Pictures

by Janice Hamilton

YA 967.73 HAM

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

The Mayor of Mogadishu

by Andrew Harding

BIO NUR

When the country collapsed into civil war and anarchy, Tarzan Nur and his young family became part of an exodus, eventually spending 20 years in North London. But in 2010 Tarzan returned, as mayor, to the unrecognizable ruins of a city now almost entirely controlled by the Islamist militants of Al Shabab. 278 pages

South Africa

When Morning Comes

by Arushi Raina

YA F RAINA

Four teenagers become tied to each other through a series of chance meetings during the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. 221 pages

The Elephant Whisperer

by Lawrence Anthony

YA 599.674 ANT

When Lawrence Anthony was asked to accept a rogue herd of elephants in his reserve in South Africa he had no experience with elephants at all. What was he to do? Take them on, of course! 248 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. 274 pages

When She Was White

by Judith Stone

BIO LAING

The story of a young girl who came to symbolize the injustice of apartheid. Born to a pro-apartheid white couple in 1955, Sandra Laing was later reclassified as "colored" because of her appearance. She eloped with a black man and decided to begin again in a poor black township. 324 pages

Mandela: My Prisoner, My Friend

by Christo Brand

BIO MANDELA

After more than a decade as a prison guard overseeing Nelson Mandela, Brand, with the assistance of Mail on Sunday Africa correspondent Jones, chronicles the unlikely personal relationship they built. 272 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

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

Courageous Journey

by Ayuel Leek Deng

962.4043 DEN

The story of two Sudanese youths whose lives were changed by the crisis in Darfur, oil reserves, and terrorism as refugee children faced starvation, disease, and violence. 317 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

↓ God Grew Tired of Us

by John Bul Dau

BIO DAU

One man describes his experiences from the terror and violence of his homeland, to his tortuous escape, to the culture shock he experienced as he struggled to adjust to a new life in America. 287 pages

The Translator: A Tribesman's Memoir of Darfur

by Daoud Hari

BIO HARI

Hari shares his experiences first escaping from militias carrying out a vicious genocide and then working for international aid organizations in Darfur, serving as a guide and translator. 204 pages

Zimbabwe

↓ I Will Always Write Back

by Caitlin Alifirenka

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

When a Crocodile Eats the Sun

by Peter Godwin

BIO GODWIN

Traces how the author routinely traveled between his Manhattan home to Zimbabwe to check on his aging parents, visits during which he witnessed the African region's dramatic descent into social and political turmoil. 344 pages

