


# Young Adult Biographies



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Young Adult Biographies are interfiled with the adult biographies on the 2nd floor, look for a green dot on the spine label. Students and their parents should choose the books that are most appropriate for them.

## Activists

### Trans Mission

by Alex Bertie

YA BIO BERTIE

*A brave firsthand account of author Alex Bertie's life, struggles, and victories as a transgender teen, and a guide for transitioning teens. 296 pages*

### Cesar Chavez

by Barbara Cruz

YA BIO CHAVEZ

*American farmworker, labor leader, and civil rights activist César Chávez cofounded the United Farm Workers labor union and fought to increase immigrants' rights in the United States. 128 pages*

### Born Criminal

by Angelica Shirley Carpenter

YA BIO GAGE

*Radical, feminist, writer, suffragist, Matilda Joslyn Gage changed the course of history. She fought for equal rights not dependent on sex, race, class, or creed. Yet her name has faded into obscurity. 284 pages*

### When They Call You a Terrorist

by Patrisse Khan-Cullors

YA BIO KHAN-CULLORS

*Patrisse Khan-Cullors grew up in an over-policed United States where incarceration of Black people runs rampant. Surrounded by police brutality, she gathered the tools and lessons that would lead her on to found one of the most powerful movements in the world. This is her story. 257 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 biography shares his struggles, his triumphs, and the sacrifices along the way. 247 pages*

### Make Trouble

by Cecile Richards

YA BIO RICHARDS

*To make change, you have to make trouble. Cecile Richards has been fighting for what she believes in ever since she was sent to the principal's office in 7th grade for protesting the Vietnam War. 244 pages*

### Eleanor Roosevelt

by Ilene Cooper

YA BIO ROOSEVEL

*Eleanor Roosevelt grew as one of the most influential women in U.S. history. Hers is a remarkable story of doing the thing you think you cannot do in order to better the lives of others. 184 pages*

### **Troublemaker for Justice**

by Jacqueline Houtman

YA BIO RUSTIN

*Recounts the life and accomplishments of Bayard Rustin, focusing on his nonviolent protest methods and his organization of the March on Washington in 1963. 160 pages*

### **Ms. Gloria Steinem**

by Winifred Conkling

YA BIO STEINEM

*Throughout the years, Gloria Steinem is perhaps the single-most iconic figure associated with women's rights, her name practically synonymous with the word "feminism." This book documents everything from her journalistic career to the foundation of Ms. magazine to being awarded the 2013 Presidential Medal of Freedom. 311 pages*

### **The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor**

by Sonia Sotomayor

YA BIO SOTOMAYO

*Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States, was just a young girl when she dared to dream big. Her dream? To become a lawyer and a judge. 343 pages*

### **I am Malala**

by Malala Yousafzai

YA BIO YOUSAFZA

*When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. When she was 15, she almost paid the ultimate price. Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. 240 pages*

## **Artists**

### **This Strange Wilderness**

by Nancy Plain

YA BIO AUDUBON

*Describes how the writer and naturalist, John James Audubon, set about recording in both word and image the birds of North America, and details the legacy his work has left behind. 112 pages*

### **Leaving China**

by James McMullan

YA BIO MCMULLAN

*Illustrator James McMullan discusses how his early childhood in China and his wartime journeys with his mother influenced his life and career. 113 pages*

### **Augusta Savage**

by Marilyn Nelson

YA BIO SAVAGE

*A powerful biography about Augusta Savage, the trailblazing artist and pillar of the Harlem Renaissance-with an afterword by the curator of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. 114 pages.*

## **Athletes**

### **Becoming Kareem**

by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

YA BIO ABDUL-JABBAR

*An autobiography about Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and his life growing up in New York, becoming the basketball star he's known to be, and getting involved in the world around him as an activist for social change. 289 pages*

### **But Now I See**

by Steven Holcomb

YA BIO HOLCOMB

*The life and athletic career of Steven Holcomb, an Olympic bobsledder who hid his encroaching blindness from his coach, sled mates, and the public until he finally told his coach, who led him to a revolutionary treatment that restored his eyesight to 20/20. 210 pages*

### **Carey Price**

by Catherine Rondina

YA BIO PRICE

*Twenty years ago, Carey Price was flying 319 kilometers across British Columbia in his father's plane so he could play on the nearest organized hockey team. Today, he is the highest-paid goalie in the NHL. But he's never forgotten where he started. 150 pages*

## No Barriers

by Erik Weihenmayer

YA BIO WEIHENMA

*The first blind person to reach the summit of Mount Everest describes his solo trek kayaking the Colorado River and discusses how a person's inner light, sometimes snuffed out through injury, disease or tragedy, can be ignited through courage and taking risks. 200 pages*

## **Authors & Poets**

### A Hopeful Heart

by Deborah Noyes

YA BIO ALCOTT

*Noyes's well-researched biography reveals Alcott's fascinating journey in the decades prior to the publication of Little Women. The chronological narrative focuses on Alcott's independent spirit and how she later provided financial support for her family through teaching, working as an army nurse, and writing. 293 pages*

### Star Child

by Ibi Aanu Zobo

YA BIO BUTLER

*Acclaimed novelist Ibi Zobo illuminates the young life of the visionary science fiction storyteller Octavia E. Butler in poems and prose. 112 pages.*

### The Life of George Washington Carver

by Barbara Kramer

YA BIO CARVER

*Carver developed more than three hundred peanut-based products and more than a hundred ways to use sweet potatoes. Barbara Kramer selects the correct anecdotes and quotes to bring "The Peanut Man" to life. 96 pages*

### Ordinary Hazards

by Nikki Grimes

YA BIO GRIMES

*Growing up in a troubled home, at the age of six Nikki Grimes poured her pain onto a piece of paper late one night, and discovered the magic and impact of writing. In this memoir, Nikki shows how the power of those words helped her conquer the hazards, ordinary and extraordinary, of her life. 325 pages*

### Mary Shelley

by Catherine Reef

YA BIO SHELLEY

*A biography on the author of Frankenstein, Mary Shelley, whose life reads like a dark gothic novel, filled with scandal, death, drama, and one of the strangest love stories in literary history. 212 pages*

### Noah Webster

by Catherine Reef

YA BIO WEBSTER

*A biography of Noah Webster, a controversial political activist, the primary shaper of the American language, and author of the Blue-Backed Spellers and the famous dictionary that bears his name. 211 pages*

## **Business**

### Coco Chanel

by Susan Rubin

YA BIO CHANEL

*This book focuses on the obstacles Chanel faced as a financially independent woman in an era when women were expected to marry, and some of her most memorable firsts for the fashion industry, including the little black dress, the quilted purse with gold chain, and the perfume Chanel No. 5. 133 pages*

### Shoe Dog

by Philip Knight

BIO KNIGHT

*A rare and revealing look at the notoriously media-shy man behind the swoosh, opening up about how he went from being a track star at an Oregon high school to the founder of a brand and company that changed everything. 386 pages*

### Ida M. Tarbell

by Emily Arnold McCully

YA BIO TARBELL

*Tarbell was the catalyst for exposing the truth behind corruption and unfair business practices. She investigated and published works about the Standard Oil Trust for McClure's Magazine that informed the world of shady business dealings and skyrocketed her into the public eye. 279 pages*

### **Madam C.J. Walker**

by Darlene R. Stille

YA BIO WALKER

*Madam C.J. Walker worked hard her entire life. The nationally known business leader gave generously of her time and money to further the cause of civil rights.* 112 pages

## **Entertainers**

### **Sarah Bernhardt**

by Catherine Reef

YA BIO BERNHARD

*A tantalizing biography for teens on Sarah Bernhardt, the first international celebrity and one of the greatest actors of all time, who lived a highly unconventional, utterly fascinating life. Illustrated with more than sixty-five photos of Bernhardt on stage, in film, and in real life.* 152 pages

### **The Magician and the Spirits**

by Deborah Noyes

YA BIO HOUDINI

*Famed illusionist Harry Houdini embarks on a quest to investigate spiritual phenomena and the possibility of communication with those on the "other side."* 152 pages

### **Funny, You Don't Look Autistic**

by Michael McCreary

YA BIO MCCREARY

*This unique and hilarious memoir breaks down life with autism for readers on and off the spectrum.* 169 pages

### **It's Trevor Noah**

by Trevor Noah

YA BIO NOAH

*A middle-grade adaptation of The Daily Show host's best-selling adult memoir traces his experiences growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid, describing how he used his wits and humor to navigate a harsh life under a racist government.* 294 pages

## **Explorers**

### **Marooned in the Arctic**

by Peggy Caravantes

YA BIO BLACKJAC

*In 1921, four men ventured into the Arctic for a top-secret expedition: an attempt to claim an uninhabited island in Siberia for Great Britain. With the men was a 23-year-old Inuit woman named Ada Blackjack, who had signed on as a seamstress to earn money to care for her sick son. Conditions soon turned dire for the team when they were unable to kill enough game to survive.* 194 pages

### **Christopher Columbus**

by Christopher Brink

YA BIO COLUMBUS

*Few people in history have had as significant an impact on the shaping of multiple cultures as Christopher Columbus, the explorer who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492 in search of a sea route from Europe to Asia. This book seeks to provide the reader with a balanced perspective of Columbus's personality, achievements, and far-reaching effects on cultures on both sides of the Atlantic.* 112 pages

### **The Stowaway: A Young Man's Extraordinary Adventure to Antarctica**

by Laurie Gwen Shapiro

YA BIO GAWRONSK

*The spectacular, true story of a scrappy teenager from New York's Lower East Side who stowed away on the Roaring Twenties' most remarkable feat of science and daring: an expedition to Antarctica.* 239 pages

### **Polar Explorer**

by Jade Hameister

YA BIO HAMEISTE

*An inspiring and empowering story by sixteen-year-old Jade Hameister, chronicling her feat of being the youngest person to complete the Polar Hat Trick.* 216 pages

### **Magellan: Over the Edge of the World**

by Laurence Bergreen

YA BIO MAGELLAN

*This book is about Ferdinand Magellan's historic 16<sup>th</sup> century voyage around the globe. Chronicles the crew's experiences with mutiny, navigation, death, and Magellan's ruthless leadership.* 211 pages

### **Locked in Ice**

by Peter Lourie

YA BIO NANSEN

*Recounts the life of polar explorer, Fridtjof Nansen, including his early affinity for skiing, his three-year arctic expedition primarily spent stuck in the ice, and his return to Norway.* 316 pages

## **Historical Figures**

### **Theodosia Burr**

by Karen Cherro QuiNones

YA BIO BURR

*This book for young adult readers discusses the life of Theodora Burr, daughter of Aaron Burr, and her involvement in the lives of the Founding Fathers of the new United States. The book includes primary source observations pulled from Theodora's personal letters and other writings.* 104 pages

### **Dissenter on the Bench**

by Victoria Ortiz

YA BIO GINSBURG

*The life and career of the fiercely principled Supreme Court Justice, now a popular icon, with dramatic accounts of her landmark cases that moved the needle on legal protection of human rights, illustrated with black and white archival photographs.* 199 pages

### **Alexander Hamilton, Revolutionary**

by Martha Brockenbrough

YA BIO HAMILTON

*A richly illustrated portrait of the Founding Father and first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury describes his experiences as an illegitimate orphan, soldier, friend, philanderer, political firebrand and financial whiz whose groundbreaking policies continue to shape today's American government.* 372 pages

### **The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh**

by Candace Fleming

YA BIO LINDBERG

*Lindbergh was a showman, an army pilot, an airmail pilot, and the first man to fly nonstop from New York to Paris which turned him into an overnight sensation. Unfortunately, his fame brought tragedy when his first child was kidnapped and murdered. What followed was the original "trial of the century."* 372 pages

### **Samurai Rising**

by Pamela Turner

YA BIO MINAMOTO

*Documents the true story of the legendary samurai who was raised in the household of the enemies who killed his father before being sent to live in a monastery where, against the odds, he learned and perfected his fighting skills.* 236 pages

### **One Real American**

by Joseph Bruchac

YA BIO PARKER

*Ely S. Parker (1828-1895) is one of the most unique, but little-known figures in US history. A member of the Iroquois nation, Parker was an attorney, engineer, and tribal diplomat. During the Civil War, he was the primary draftsman of the terms of the Confederate surrender at Appomattox. He eventually became President Grant's Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the first Native American to hold that post.* 242 pages

### **Terrible Typhoid Mary**

by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

YA BIO TYPHOID MARY

*What happens when a person's reputation has been forever damaged? With archival photographs and text among other primary sources, this riveting biography of Mary Mallon by the Sibert medalist and Newbery Honor winner Susan Bartoletti looks beyond the tabloid scandal of Mary's controversial life.* 229 pages

### **Victoria: Portrait of a Queen**

by Catherine Reef

YA BIO VICTORIA

*Her long reign was filled with drama, death, intrigue, and passion, and took place during a time of great transformation, an era that bears the imprint of her personality and values as well as that of her name—the Victorian period.* 246 pages

## Inspiring Stories

### The Eagle Huntress

by Nurgai Aisholpan

YA BIO AISHOLPA

*Sixteen-year-old Nurgai came from a Kazakh/Mongolian family with a tradition of hunting with eagles, a custom handed from father to son for generations. Cultural expectations demanded that girls stay at home, but Nurgai, was not content with that role. She convinced her family to let her try to become an eagle huntress, and after arduous training, went on to win the 2014 Golden Eagle Festival Competition. 198 pages*

### Cyrus Field's Big Dream

by Mary Morton Cowan

YA BIO FIELD

*The riveting adventure and drama of Cyrus Field's endeavor to lay the first transatlantic telegraph cable, an unforgettable story of determination and courage. 224 pages*

### Taking Cover

by Nioucha Homayoonfar

YA BIO HOMAYOON

*This coming-of-age memoir, set during the Iranian Revolution, tells the true story of a young girl who moves to Tehran from the U.S. and has to adjust to living in a new country, learning a new language, and starting a new school during one of the most turbulent periods in Iran's history. 160 pages*

### Kiyo Sato

by Connie Goldsmith

YA BIO SATO

*In February 1942, Sato's family was forced into Japanese incarceration camps by the US government. After the war, Sato pursued a career in nursing in the U.S. Air Force and an active career as a public speaker, making school visits to educate youth about internment and advocating for human rights. 136 pages*

## Inventors & Scientists

### Charles and Emma

by Deborah Heiligman

YA BIO DARWIN

*This biography of Charles Darwin takes a personal look at the man behind evolutionary theory. His children doubled as scientific specimens, and his wife's religious convictions made him rethink how the world would receive his ideas. What emerges is a portrait of a brilliant man, a radical science, and a great love. 268 pages*

### The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

by William Kamkwamba

BIO KAMKWAMB

*This immensely engaging tale relates how an enterprising teenager in Malawi built a windmill from scraps he found around his village and brought electricity—and a future—to his family. 273 pages*

### What Linnaeus Saw

by Karen Magnuson Beil

YA BIO LINNAEUS

*The globetrotting naturalists of the eighteenth century were the geeks of their day: innovators and explorers who lived at the intersection of science and commerce. Foremost among them was Carl Linnaeus, a radical thinker who revolutionized biology. 256 pages*

### Dreaming in Code

by Emily Arnold McCully

YA BIO LOVELACE

*An award-winning author presents an illuminating biography of Ada Lovelace, the brilliant daughter of Lord Byron, Britain's most infamous Romantic poet, who is now recognized as a pioneer and prophet of the information age for her ideas and concepts, formulated in collaboration with inventor Charles Babbage, that predated computer programming by almost 200 years. 164 pages*

### Elon Musk

by Anna Crowley Redding

YA BIO MUSK

*Elon Musk is the visionary behind SpaceX and the CEO of Tesla, who is working on unique improvements to both public transit and solar energy. But behind the headlines is the story of a bullied and beaten school boy, who through creativity and determination decided to rewrite his story and find a way to make the world a better place. 245 pages*

## Performing Artists

### Life in Motion

by Misty Copeland

YA BIO COPELAND

*The first female African American principal dancer in American Ballet Theatre history recounts her road to stardom, from her first ballet class to her rise through the professional ranks while dealing with a challenging home life.* 186 pages

### The Maddie Diaries

by Maddie Ziegler

YA BIO ZIEGLER

*Teen dance prodigy, breakout Dance Moms star, and judge on So You Think You Can Dance: The Next Generation, presents her uplifting coming-of-age memoir about following her dreams and working hard to achieve success in both the dance world and in life.* 219 pages

## Physical and Mental Health

### Obsessed: A Memoir of My Life With OCD

by Allison Britz

YA BIO BRITZ

*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.* 351 pages

### Strangers Assume My Girlfriend is My Nurse

by Shane Burcaw

YA BIO BURCAW

*A collection of evocative and humor-infused essays about living with disability caused by a degenerative disease in an uncomprehending, able-bodied world. Shane tackles awkward situations and assumptions with humor and grace.* 197 pages.

### Florence Nightingale

by Catherine Reef

YA BIO NIGHTING

*During the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale rectified horrifying conditions and made nightly rounds to check on patients, saving hundreds of lives and sparking worldwide healthcare reform.* 184 pages

## Refugees and Immigrants

### Walk Toward the Rising Sun

by Ger Duany

YA BIO DUANY

*The amazing autobiography of a young Sudanese boy who went from a child soldier to an international peace activist, a struggling refugee to a Hollywood actor.* 306 pages

### Call Me American

by Abdi Nor Iftin

YA BIO IFTIN

*Abdi grew up in Somalia, but when the threat of civil war reached Abdi's doorstep, his family was forced to flee to safety. Through the turbulent years of war, young Abdi found solace in popular American music and films. Nicknamed Abdi the American, he developed a proficiency for English that connected him—and his story—with news outlets and radio shows, eventually giving him a shot at winning the annual U.S. visa lottery.* 255 pages

### Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card

by Sara Saedi

YA BIO SAEDI

*In San Jose, California, in the 1990s, teenaged Sara keeps a diary of life as an Iranian American and her discovery that she and her family entered as undocumented immigrants and were therefore breaking the law simply by living in the United States.* 280 pages

### A Hope More Powerful than the Sea

by Melissa Fleming

YA BIO ZAMEL

*Describes the struggles of Syrian refugees following the country's brutal civil war.* 290 pages

## Survivors

### A Cave in the Clouds

by Badeeah Hassan Ahmed

YA BIO AHMED

*Recounts the author's harrowing experiences as a survivor of the 2014 genocide of the Ezidi minority culture by ISIS, describing how she was among hundreds enslaved within a brutal human trafficking network.* 234 pages

### Lion: A Long Way Home

by Saroo Brierley

YA BIO BRIERLEY

*Describes how the author was accidentally separated from his family and home in India as a child, how he survived as an orphan in Kolkata, his adoption by an Australian family, and his search for his biological family as an adult.* 239 pages

### A Light in the Darkness

by Albert Marrin

YA BIO KORCZAK

*Story of a Polish Jewish doctor who, during World War II, turned down multiple opportunities for escape, standing by the children in his orphanage as they became confined to the Warsaw Ghetto.* 388 pages

### Every Falling Star

by Lee Sungju

YA BIO LEE

*Sungju is forced at age 12 to live on the streets and fend for himself. To survive, he creates a gang and lives by thieving, fighting, begging, and stealing rides on cargo trains.* 314 pages

### The Cat I Never Named

by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess

YA BIO SABIC-EL

*In Bihac, Bosnia, in 1992, 16-year-old Amra and her family face starvation and the threat of brutal ethnic violence as Serbs and Bosnians clash, while a stray cat, Maci, provides solace.* 370 pages

### Chance: Escape from the Holocaust

by Uri Shulevitz

YA BIO SHULEVIT

*The Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator of The Fool of the World and The Flying Ship presents a heartrending, illustrated account of his childhood escape from Nazi-occupied Warsaw to the Soviet Union, where he experienced his awakening as an artist.* 329 pages

### How Dare the Sun Rise

by Sandra Uwiringiyimana

YA BIO UWIRINGI

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

### Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story

by Caren Barzelay Stelson

YA BIO YASUI

*Tells the story of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki through the eyes of Sachiko Yasui, who was six when the devastation was wrought, describing her experiences in the aftermath of the attack as well as her long journey to find peace.* 144 pages

## War and Military

### The Plot to Kill Hitler

by Patricia McCormick

YA BIO BONHOEFF

*Traces the life of the German theologian and pacifist, whose faith led him to speak out against the Nazis and participate in an assassination plot that targeted Adolf Hitler.* 174 pages

### Fly Like a Girl

by Mary Jennings Hegar

YA BIO HEGAR

*On July 29, 2009, Air National Guard Major Mary Jennings Hegar was shot down while on a Medevac mission in Afghanistan. Despite being wounded, her courageous actions saved the lives of her crew and their patients. That day also marked the beginning of a new mission: convincing the U.S. Government to allow women to serve openly on the front line of battle for the first time in American history.* 294 pages



**Warhead: The True Story of One Teen Who Almost Saved the World**

by Jeff Henigson

YA BIO HENIGSON

*Chronicles the author's formidable battle with brain cancer as a teenager and his 1986 Starlight Children's Foundation wish to meet Mikhail Gorbachev in Russia to plead for nuclear disarmament and world peace.*  
347 pages

**Robert E. Lee**

by Brandon Marie Miller

YA BIO LEE

*Presents the life of the Confederate general, describing his childhood, his 35-year career in the U.S. Army, his decision to fight for the South during the Civil War, and his command of some of the famous battles of the war.*  
302 pages

**Unlikely Warrior**

by Georg Rauch

YA BIO RAUCH

*A YA memoir of an 18-year-old part-Jewish youth who, despite his heritage, is drafted into Hitler's army and sent to serve on the Russian front.* 324 pages

**Irena's Children**

by Tilar Mazzeo

YA BIO SENDLER

*A gripping account of Irena Sendler, who took staggering risks to save 2,500 children from death and deportation in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.* 257 pages

**I am a SEAL Team Six Warrior**

by Howard E. Wasdin

YA BIO WASDIN

*Recounts the story of how the author overcame a tough and abusive childhood to fulfill his dream of joining the exciting and dangerous world of the Navy SEALs by becoming a Special Forces sniper.* 182 pages



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