



VOYA'S

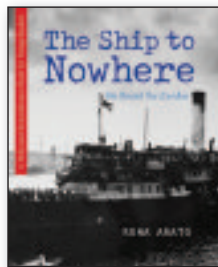
NONFICTION

HONOR LIST 2017

This year's nominated books are truly amazing. Both authors and publishers are rising to the challenge of providing high-interest nonfiction books for adolescent readers. The titles are unique in formatting, offer high-interest, intriguing topics, and provide information that invites critical thinking, as well as additional resources for readers who want to learn more. Many of the books provide common core alignment and creative bibliographies which divide resources into various modes, thus providing readers with expanded options and modeling on how and where to access information.

Arato, Rona. **The Ship to Nowhere**. Second Story Press, 2016. 144p. \$14.95 Trade pb. 978-1-77260-018-6. Photos. Illus. Biblio.

This is the story of Jewish refugees who, post-World War II, fled residual hatred and sought a safe place to live. They boarded a ship headed to Palestine only



/// Nonfiction Honor List 2017 Books Meet the Following Criteria

- Suitable for middle school/junior high readers in grades six through eight
- Address curricular needs or personal reading interests
- Were published in 2016
- Contain some element(s) that raise them above other books on the same topic, such as unique research, creative presentation, inventive use of photography, or filling a niche at the middle school level

to encounter unbelievable obstacles, including anti-immigration laws that kept their ship—and the once-hopeful people aboard—stranded, with no place to go. The author's preface provides connections to current refugee and immigration issues, making this historical book appealing to history lovers as well as to readers who follow the issues of today.

/// PUBLISHERS: How to Nominate Your Books for VOYA's Next Nonfiction Honor List

If your 2017 publications for middle/junior high school readers fulfill the criteria in this list's introduction, you may nominate qualified titles. Please note that the minimum grade-level interest is grade six.

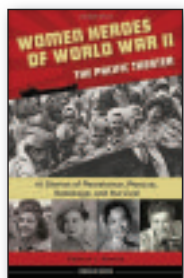
1. Select your finest publications; you are limited to five titles from each imprint.
2. Send five copies of each nominated book to: **VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List, 16211 Oxford Ct., Bowie, MD 20715.**
3. Be sure that we receive your books as early as possible but no later than **January 31, 2018.**
4. Winning selections will be featured in the next edition of the Nonfiction Honor List, an annotated bibliography in the August 2018 issue of **VOYA.**
5. Refer procedural questions to **VOYA's Editor-in-Chief, RoseMary Ludt** at rmludt@voyamagazine.com.

NOTE: Books submitted for the Honor List are not automatically reviewed in **VOYA.** Please send review copies to **Lisa Kurdyla, Review Editor, 16211 Oxford Ct., Bowie, MD 20715.**

Reminder: See our February 2017 issue or our website at <http://www.voyamagazine.com/publishers/> for how to nominate your fiction titles for our annual Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers list.

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Atwood, Kathryn J. **Women Heroes of World War II—the Pacific Theater: 15 Stories of Resistance, Rescue, Sabotage, and Survival.** Chicago Review Press, 2016. 240p. \$19.99. 978-1-61373-168-0. Photos. Maps. Illus. Discussion Questions. Notes. Biblio. Index.



The fifteen heroic women featured in this book were part of the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. Surprisingly suspenseful, the stories show how these women placed themselves in mind-shockingly dangerous situations to fight against government corruption. They worked alongside guerilla warfare, served as secret spies, and stopped at nothing to challenge what they believed was wrong.

Barakat, Ibtisam. **Balcony on the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine.** Farrar Straus Giroux/Macmillan, 2016. 240p. \$17.99. 978-0-374-30251-1. Photos. Map. Additional Resources.



This memoir provides a rarely shared first-person point of view about growing up female in Palestine. Barakat presents a clear window into the life of an adolescent girl growing up in a tumultuous country, relating her dreams and the challenges girls face in this corner of the world where women do not have the same rights as women in America. This story is timely, relatable, and well-written.

Blumenthal, Karen. **Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History.** Feiwei & Friends/Macmillan, 2016. 448p. \$18.99. 978-1-250-06014-3. Photos. Illus. Quotes. Timeline. Biblio. Source Notes. Index.



This book provides interesting, detailed information about Clinton's young life and the roles she took on as a student, wife, and lawyer. Even more inspiring are the societal roles she defied as an American woman. With many pictures spanning decades, this

biography covers women's rights and gender roles in the context of Clinton's life. Political cartoons sprinkled throughout add even more dimensions to this book.

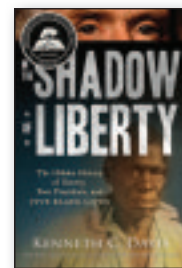
Braun, Eric. **Trapped behind Nazi Lines: The Story of the U.S. Army Air Force 807th Medical Evacuation Squadron.** Capstone Press, 2016. 224p. \$14.95. 978-1-62370-605-0. Photos. Maps. Timeline. Glossary. Additional Resources. Biblio. Index.



The survival/adventure angle of this story will appeal to history and survival buffs. A plane crash left American medical workers trapped for two horrific months in Nazi territory. This unfamiliar but riveting account from World War II will immediately engage readers. With an inviting layout chock full of maps and graphics; powerful, bold chapter titles; and text broken into approachable chunks, this book will appeal to reluctant readers as well as those seeking life-and-death situations described in agonizing personal detail, along with their history lessons.

Davis, Kenneth C. **In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives.** Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2016. 304p. \$17.99. 978-1-62779-311-7. Photos. Illus. Quotes. Timeline. Source Notes. Biblio. Index. A unique and thoughtful look at individual slaves owned

by well-known and adored presidents, this book invites thoughtful consideration of facts from commonly studied history. **In the Shadow of Liberty** provides authentic opportunities to apply critical analysis of information. Great photographs and additional features add to the quality and usefulness of this book.



Fleming, Candace. **Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West.**

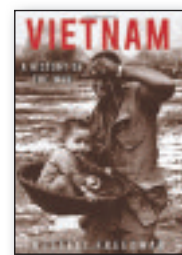


Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, 2016. 288p. \$19.99. 978-1-59643-763-0. Photos. Illus. Quotes. Biblio. Source Notes. Index.

The author creates narration using direct quotes as well as textual evidence from historical publications. Pictures and sidebars add to the personal aspect of this biography, making much of it seem like a story combined with historical facts. No person—or event—is

as simple as history portrays. Told in chronological order, the story is easy to follow. Well-organized and researched, the book contains sections in which the author notes when Buffalo Bill's own accounts appear exaggerated and do not match up with historical records. The extensive research into historical details is evident throughout.

Freedman, Russell. **Vietnam: A History of the War.** Holiday House, 2016. 160p. \$20. 978-0-8234-3658-3. Photos. Illus. Timeline. Source Notes. Glossary. Biblio. Index.



There is just the right amount of background information shared for readers not familiar with this topic along with extensive research into lesser-known historical details. Authentic photographs and captions help readers increase their understanding of the Vietnam War. Freedman shares information about Vietnam today, which is much more hopeful. This is another winner that looks beyond traditional history books.

Jorgensen, Kristina, and Blake Hoena. **Ballpark Cookbook: Recipes Inspired by Baseball Stadium Foods.** Capstone Press, 2016. 64p. PLB \$24.86. 978-1-4914-8232-2. Photos.



This gender-neutral cookbook is a fun and colorful look at baseball stadiums and recipes of popular food items served at them. A mixture of facts about American League stadiums, this appealing book will have sports fans asking about the National League book (which is also available). Sprinkled with trivia, brilliant images of food and baseball, and recipes, this will appeal to both sports lovers and young adults who like to cook.

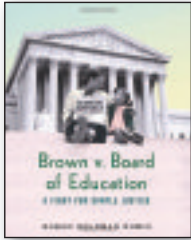
Langston-George, Rebecca. **Orphan Trains.** Capstone Press, 2016. 128p. \$6.95 Trade pb. 978-1-62370-630-2. Pictures. Illus. Quotes. Timeline. Glossary. Additional Resources. Biblio. Source Notes. Index.



This book is a very personal look at orphaned, homeless children in New York who had willing, adoptive families in the Midwest offering to provide them with stable homes. The story of the difficulties faced in getting the children from New York to their new homes, it provides information about transported orphans, misconceptions about this time period, and the feeling of

helplessness by all who were involved. This title was highly praised by the VOYA committee's student evaluators.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. **Brown v. Board of Education: A Fight for Simple Justice.** Holiday House, 2016. 144p. \$18.95. 978-0-8234-3646-0. Photos. Illus. Timeline. Additional Information. Biblio. Source Notes. Index.



This is a wonderfully researched, in-depth look at the story of school integration in America. The photos showing the stark differences between white and black schools are still striking, as are the pictures of people

screaming at children who had the right to attend an integrated school rather than a "separate but equal" school. The timeline in the back is particularly helpful in representing the "big picture" for today's young readers. A discussion of the current state of school integration makes this book relevant to students of today.

Stille, Darlene R. **Madam C. J. Walker: The Inspiring Life Story of the Hair Care Entrepreneur.** Compass Point, 2016. 112p. PLB \$35.99. 978-0-7565-5165-0. Photos. Illus. Timeline. Glossary. Additional Resources. Source Notes. Biblio. Index.



This is much more than the story of Madam C. J. Walker and her rise to affluence through providing successful hair care products; it shows a successful entrepreneur who helped uplift other women. Personal details about her life shed light on daily existence for poor black women in the post-Civil War era. Pages are visually appealing with many historical images in a colorful layout. The underlying story about life after the end of slavery resonates through this book.

/// Meet the Committee

Dianna Geers is a teacher librarian at Prairie Creek Intermediate School, part of the College Community School District in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Prior to this role, Geers was an educator and teacher librarian in the Cedar Rapids Community School District for twenty-five years. Geers holds two master's degrees from the University of Iowa, is an adjunct professor in their School of Library and Information Science, and is National Board Certified in Library Media/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood. She has been reviewing books for VOYA for six years and served as the committee chairperson for this award committee.

Michelle Kruse is in her third year as a media specialist for Cedar Rapids Community School District and in her second year at Roosevelt Middle School, which has become Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy Magnet School. Prior to her work as a media specialist/teacher librarian, Kruse was an academic advisor for Kirkwood Community College and an admissions counselor for Loras College. Kruse earned her master's degree in school library studies from the University of Northern Iowa.

Morgan Reeves has been a children's services librarian at the Iowa City Public Library for four years. She holds a master's degree of library science from Indiana University. Reeves selects and catalogs library materials for children and provides year-round programming for local tweens.

Janette Schroeder, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has a love for learning and teaching. She believes that effective teaching has the power to make significant changes in our world. She has worked as a teacher and an instructional coach at both elementary and middle school levels over the last twenty-seven years. She has a master's degree in education with an emphasis in reading and is National Board Certified as a Middle Childhood Generalist. ■



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