



VOYA'S

NONFICTION HONOR LIST 2018

With students ranging in age from fresh-out-of-elementary-school fifth graders to on-the-cusp-of-high-school eighth graders, American middle schools are the epitome of diversity.

Variations in skin tone, sense of style, and position on the puberty ladder add to the mix. This diversity extends to their reading choices, with some students eager to submerge themselves in a dense tome while others prefer to skim a book full of quirky facts and tidbits. This year's list reflects that diversity in subject matter, format, and complexity. Readers will find all kinds of quality non-fiction titles here—whether they're looking for current information on science and technology, historical heroes, modern issues, or just want to make something tasty in the kitchen.



Bialik, Mayim. **Girling Up: How to Be Strong, Smart and Spectacular.** Philomel/Penguin Random House, May 2017. 192p. \$18.99. 978-0-399-54860-4. Illus.

Bialik combines personal experiences and scholarly credentials as a neuroscientist when she tackles six aspects of what she calls “girling up” . . . that period of time when girls transition into young womanhood. She

discusses how girls’ bodies work, how they grow, how they learn, how they love, how they cope, and how they matter. Without being preachy, Bialik offers direct, wide-ranging guidance while emphasizing the importance of girls taking ownership of their decisions. She also encourages making choices based on education and self-awareness. The narrative avoids judgments, maintains a breezy, conversational tone, and relies on common sense advice coupled with factual information.

“There is only so much a girl’s mom or health teacher can tell you. **Girling Up** is a great book for young girls who are experiencing these changes in their bodies.”—Lauren C., age 14

Brokenbrough, Martha. **Alexander Hamilton: Revolutionary.** Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, September 2017. 372p. \$19.99. 978-1-250-12319-0. Illus. Supporting Materials. Author’s Note. Biblio. Source Notes. Index.

The recent popularity of Alexander Hamilton will draw readers to this well-researched biography. From his illegitimate birth

★ Nonfiction Honor List 2018 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 2017
- 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 level.



to his death by duel, Brokenbrough examines Hamilton’s political career and personal life, showing him as a complex man of passions and principles, contradictions and flaws. Suited to older middle school students, abundant illustrations, subheadings, and quotes make the engaging, but lengthy, narrative manageable. Rich, plentiful back matter, such as “Rules for Duels,” adds context

to the historical period.

Burgan, Michael. **Exposing Hidden Worlds: How Jacob Riis’ Photos Became Tools for Social Reform.** Compass Point Books/Capstone, August 2017. 64p. \$25.99. 978-0-7565-5618-1. Timeline. Glossary. Additional Resources. Source Notes. Biblio. Index.

This simple but captivating book introduces young readers to the compelling images of Jacob Riis, whose pioneering photojournalism techniques instigated change in the corrupt practices of New York’s tenement housing. Clearly reproduced black-and-white photographs show crowded



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tenements, child laborers, and the miserable living conditions found within the city. While the brief text provides context and biographical information, the real stars of the book are the images themselves, which, even a hundred years later, still evoke an emotional response. The message that a single voice shining a light in the darkness can bring real change is one that still resonates today.

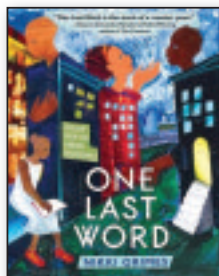
Deering, Alison, and Bob Lentz. **Sandwiches!: More Than You've Ever Wanted to Know about Making and Eating America's Favorite Food.** Capstone Young Readers/Capstone, August 2017. 144p. \$15.95 Trade pb. 978-1-62370-816-0. Table of Contents. Illus.



From the classic PB&J to a Vietnamese favorite, the Banh Mi, this cookbook is perfect for hungry teens looking for quick but satisfying food. Each recipe includes the basics plus a variety of tasty alternatives or

upgrades. Recipes are arranged by sandwich type and progress from easiest to most difficult. Rather than a traditional recipe format, Deering uses a visual guide that shows each element of the sandwich stacked from the top slice of bread to the bottom. Timelines, statistics, historical trivia, and other quirky facts make this fun to browse both in and out of a kitchen.

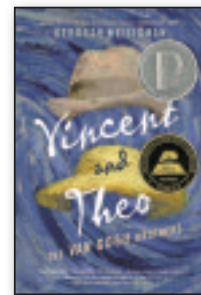
Grimes, Nikki. **One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance.** Bloomsbury, January 2017. 128p. \$18.99. 978-1-61963-554-8. Illus. Preface. Author's Note. Resources. Index.



Harlem Renaissance poets, including Langston Hughes, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Jean Toomer, and Countee Cullen, are featured in this collection. Grimes's preface pays tribute to these poets and explains how they informed and influenced her poetic voice. Using the "golden shovel" form, Grimes creates original poetry utilizing words from the classics as the last lines of her poems. Illustrations from contemporary African American artists are interspersed throughout the book. **One Last Word** connects the past to the present in a moving and accessible way that will inspire middle school readers.

"It gave me a stronger look at life and showed me what was going through Nikki's head. The poems speak to your heart."
—Nairobi E., age 13

Heiligman, Deborah. **Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers.** Henry Holt/Macmillan, April 2017. 454p. \$27.99. 978-0-8050-9339-1. Illus. Supporting Materials. Author's Note. Biblio. Endnotes.



Vincent Van Gogh looms larger than life in popular culture as the quintessential tragic artist. This book tells the parallel story of Vincent and his brother and associate, Theo, illuminating how both struggled with money, health, faith, love, and familial loyalty. Vincent's obsession with art and religion and the development of his craft are well-documented, illustrated, and analyzed in this engaging and dynamic reassessment of the Van Gogh myth.

"The way the book was structured, linking different parts of their lives to the art they produced was an interesting way of doing it and one that I liked."—Kate Lynch, age 13

Kyi, Tanya Lloyd. **Eyes and Spies: How You're Tracked and Why You Should Know.** Annick, March 2017. 136p. \$22.95. 978-1-55451-911-8. Illus. Further Reading. Selected Source Notes. Index.



With eye-catching graphic artwork and brightly colored text boxes, this book presents timely information and advice for teens in today's online and technological environment. Using real-life scenarios

featuring teens, the author explains the myriad ways in which technology is used for surveillance and tracking data, ranging from ID cards with radio frequency identification tags to data collection from online activities. Lloyd invites teens to think critically about issues, such as the invasion of privacy, by presenting them with opposing viewpoints and with situations in which they are asked, for example, to think about the limits of cellphone tracking.

"I think it's a good book for anyone who wants to know more about internet safety and just how much we don't know."—Nirvan M., age 14

Leatherdale, Mary Beth. **Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees.** Illus. by Eleanor Shakespeare. Annick, April 2017. 64p. \$24.95. 978-1-55451-896-8. Time Line. Resources.



Stormy Seas profiles the plight of five youth (ages eleven to eighteen) between

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

If your 2018 publications for middle/junior high school readers fulfill the criteria, 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 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, 2019**.
 4. Winning selections will be featured in the next edition of the Nonfiction Honor List, an annotated bibliography in the August 2019 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 **Review Editor, 16211 Oxford Ct., Bowie, MD 20715**.

Reminder: See our February 2018 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.

1939 and 2006 as they risked their lives to escape war, poverty, famine, and persecution in their homelands. Leatherdale provides historical context for the current refugee crisis and effectively makes this complex topic accessible to a young audience through facts, figures, maps, timelines, definitions, and personal accounts. Shakespeare's mixed-media, collage-based illustrations provide a perfect accompaniment to the text, a visual metaphor for multifaceted situations. A timely topic, this picture book is well-suited to younger middle school readers.

Mihailidis, Alex, and Jan Andrysek. **New Hands, New Life:**



Robots, Prostheses and Innovation. Firefly, September 2017. 64p. \$19.95. 978-177085-969-2. Photos. Illus.

The twenty-first century is replete with technologies so advanced that the word *disability* almost seems absurd. That said people with physical challenges have consistently been marginalized and relegated to “don’t ask, don’t tell” status. Mihailidis’s and Andrysek’s **New Hands, New Life**, however, proudly features people with physical differences and shows how cutting-edge technology is adapted to serve individual needs. The details in this book make for fascinating reading and convey empowerment. The wealth of photographs and diagrams desensitizes readers to people with missing limbs, illustrating that we are not so different.

Newquist, HP. **From Here to There: The Story of How We Transport Ourselves and Everything Else.** Viking/Penguin Random House, September 2017. 124p. \$18.99. 978-0451-47645-6. Table of Contents. Index. Photos. Resources List.



Newquist examines the history of transportation, from shoes to space travel, in this book from the Smithsonian. The arrangement of chapters by topic will encourage some readers to dip in and out according to their interests, while those who prefer reading from cover-to-cover will appreciate the text that easily transitions from one topic to the next. The author’s ability to connect cultural and historical influences to inventions makes it an excellent cross-curricular bridge between STEM subjects and the humanities.

Noyes, Deborah. **The Magicians and the Spirits.** Viking/Penguin Random House, August 2017. 160p. \$18.99. 978-0-8037-4018-1. Intro. Photos. Notes. Biblio. Index.



This fascinating biography of Harry Houdini examines the history of the spiritualism movement and Houdini’s involvement in exposing fraudulent practitioners. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was Houdini’s friend and a staunch believer in spiritualism, which caused tension between the two men. Primary

sources, such as photographs and direct quotes add to the narrative and pull readers into the time period. An attractive layout and a unique focus with clear and accessible writing make this biography stand out.

Rinaldi, Tom. **The Red Bandanna.** Viking/Penguin Random House, September 2017. 162p. \$17.99. 978-042528-7620.

As a boy, Welles Crowther’s father gave him a red bandanna, which quickly became his



signature. He kept it with him throughout his life, even on September 11, 2001, when he went to his job at the World Trade Center. After the Towers fell that day, Welles’s parents had no idea what happened to him until eight months later, when his mother read an account linking multiple 9-11 survivors to the same man. The only clear detail any of them recalled: the red bandanna he wore. This accessible young reader’s edition of Rinaldi’s compelling biography shines in his focus on Crowther’s last hours. Here, Rinaldi transforms him from everyman to hero, cementing his legacy for 21st-century readers.

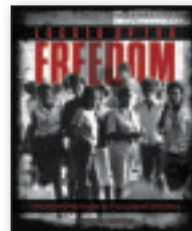
Saujani, Reshma. **Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World.** Viking/Penguin Random House, August 2017. 168p. \$17.99. 978-0-425-28753-8. Illus. Glossary. Index.



From the fundamentals of how computers work to complex coding projects, this is a solid introduction to the world of computer science and its many real-world applications. It includes diverse illustrations from which

characters break the fourth wall to talk to the reader, as well as interviews with real-world coders, including a roboticist and a Pixar animator. With a strong message of female empowerment, this is a must-purchase for every collection.

Schwartz, Heather E. **Locked Up for Freedom: Civil Rights Protesters at the Leesburg Stockade.** Millbrook/Lerner, August 2017. 84p. PLB \$33.32. 978-1-4677-8597-6. Photos. Timeline. Glossary. Source Notes. Biblio. Index.



The photograph on the front cover and the author’s research bring recognition to over thirty courageous African American girls who were detained in horrific conditions in Leesburg Stockade, Lee County, Georgia, in 1963 because of their participation in Civil Rights demonstrations. The girls’ experiences of discrimination under Jim Crow Laws, their activism, arrest, and incarceration are vividly captured in photographs and in their own words. The author shows how the girls’ protests were part of the larger Civil Rights Movement in which children and teens increasingly took part and makes connections to protests against discrimination and prejudice found in the United States today.

Sheinkin, Steve. **Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team.** Roaring Brook/Macmillan, January 2017. 280p. \$19.99. 978-1-59643-954-2. Photos. Source Notes. Biblio. Index.



Sheinkin spins a biography of Jim Thorpe from his humble beginnings in Oklahoma to his death and the posthumous reinstatement of his stripped Olympic medals, all through the lens of his time at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School.

Along with coach “Pop” Warner, Thorpe and his teammates revolutionized the young game of football, inventing plays and techniques that are still in use today, despite facing long odds and racist treatment. Even non-sports fans will find something to enjoy in this thoughtful, fast-paced biography.

Winchester, Simon. **When the Sky Breaks: Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and the Worst Weather in the World.** Viking/Penguin Random House, January 2017. 96p. \$18.99. 978-0-451-47635-7. Table of Contents. Photos. Illus. Afterword. Further Reading. Index.



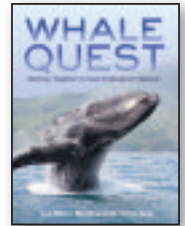
Stunning photographs illustrate the power unleashed by some of the earth’s

most dangerous storms: hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones, and tornadoes. The author's life-long interest leads to an engaging text that quickly draws in readers. Especially helpful is the way the author provides historical context to famous storms and demonstrates how the study of weather has progressed from ancient times to modern. The final chapter's examination of the effects of climate change on these storms brings relevance and currency to an already popular topic.

Young, Karen Romano. **Whale Quest: Working Together to Save Endangered Species**. Millbrook/Lerner, August 2017. 128p. PLB \$37.32. 978-1-4677-9246-2. Photos. Illus. Guide. Notes. Glossary. Biblio. Further Information. Index.

In **Whale Quest**, readers join the author of the *National Geographic's Science Fair Winners* series in close encounters

with one of the most awe-inspiring, yet maligned animals. Rather than vilify historical whaling, Young credits early whale hunters as the first marine biologists who paved the way for modern conservationism. Although exploitation of whales continues, the concept of the whale as mythical monster has led to a greater understanding of whales as sublime communicators. Vividly illustrated information about cetology, ecology, technology, and maritime history engages readers with thoughtful clarity and empathy. ■



★ Meet the Committee

Heather Christensen, committee chairperson, is the district and high school librarian for Portales Municipal Schools and teaches Children's and Adolescent Literature at Eastern New Mexico University. She earned her BA in English from the University of Wyoming and her MLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. She currently chairs New Mexico's Advocacy for School Libraries and served for many years on the Land of Enchantment Award Committee.

Hilary S. Crew is a former associate professor at Kean University, New Jersey, where she was a graduate coordinator of a school library media program and taught children's and YA literature. She earned a Ph.D. and MLS from Rutgers University and has worked in university, public, and school libraries in the U.S. and the U.K. She has served on the Printz Committee and the Children's Literature Association's Phoenix Committee. Her publications include: **Is It Really Mommie Dearest: Daughter-Mother Narratives in Young Adult Fiction** (Scarecrow, 2000), **Donna Jo Napoli: Writing with Passion** (Scarecrow 2010), and **Experiencing America's Story through Fiction: Historical Novels for Grades 7-12** (ALA, 2014).

Judith A. Hayn is professor of teacher education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has been teaching in public schools and higher education for fifty years. Her research focuses on young adult literature, particularly in areas of social justice; she has numerous publications with this focus. Her co-edited textbook, **Teaching Young Adult Literature Today: Insights, Considerations, and Perspectives for the Classroom Teacher** (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012), is in its second edition. She also serves as a member of the NCTE LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

Stefanie N. Hughes earned a BS in human development and family studies from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and her MLIS from SUNY, Buffalo. She worked as the school library media specialist at Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan for six years. She is currently working on a graduate certificate in studies in children's and young adult literature and culture from Texas A&M.

Rebecca Jung has served as teen services librarian at the Belvedere Tiburon Library for seven years, after having earned her MLIS from San Jose State University and BA in art history from Humboldt State University. Serving middle and high school students in Marin County, California, Jung runs year-round programming, including book and graphic novel clubs and creativity workshops, oversees teen volunteers, and provides outreach to the community. Jung reviews and selects all young adult materials as well as books on science and math for the library.

Marissa Lieberman is a children's librarian at the East Orange Public Library in New Jersey. She received her MLS from Queens College, New York. She reviews for **Voices of Youth Advocates**, **School Library Journal**, and the graphic novel review website, **No Flying, No Tights** (<http://www.noflyingnotights.com/>).

Dr. Jim Nicosia is a writer, scholar, and children's literacy advocate. He teaches American literature, grammars of English, and young adult literature at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Though a self-professed reluctant reader, he has rarely met a book that was worth nothing. He is the author of **Reading Mark Strand: His Collected Works, Career, and the Poetics of the Privative** (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) and runs the BoyBookoftheMonth.com website for reluctant readers.

Elizabeth J. Norton earned her BA in English from Alma College in Alma, Michigan, and her MLIS from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She has been a teen services librarian at Commerce Township Community Library, Commerce Township, Michigan, since 2007. An avid reader and writer, she is a regular contributor to the Teen Services Underground blog. ■

