

Nonfiction Book Suggestions for Book Reports

(APA Style)

5,000 Miles to Freedom : Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery

Fradin, J. & D. (2006). *5,000 miles to freedom : ellen and william craft's flight from slavery*. Washington, DC: National Geographic.

A true story of slavery based on old documents, letters, diaries, newspapers, and personal narratives.

96 pages

Call Number : 326 FRA

The Acorn People

Jones, R. (1996). *The acorn people*. New York, NY: Bantam Doubleday Dell.

The Acorn People, a very special group of disabled children, make their dreams come true at Camp Wiggin--swimming, staging a play, even hiking up Lookout Mountain! Acorn people prove to the world that with encouragement and determination, nothing is impossible.

80 pages

Call Number : 362.73 JON

After the Last Dog Died : The True-Life, Hair-Raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson and his 1911-1914 Antarctic Expedition

Bredeson, C. (2003). *After the last dog died : the true-life, hair-raising adventure of douglas mawson and his 1911-1914 antarctic expedition*. Washington, DC: National Geographic.

Describes the life and career of the Australian explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson, focusing on his 1912 scientific expedition to Antarctica.

63 pages

Call Number : 918.8 BRE

Alicia : My Story

Appleman-Jurmaan, A. (1988). *Alicia : my story*. New York, NY: Bantam Books.

The story of a young girl who rescued thousands of Jews after losing her entire family to the Nazis.

433 pages

Call Number : 940.53 APP

An American Plague : The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

Murphy, J. (2003). *An american plague : the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793*. New York, NY: Clarion.

Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.

165 pages

Call Number : 614.5 MUR

Alive in the Killing Fields : surviving the Khmer Rouge genocide

Keat, N. (2009). *Alive in the killing fields : surviving the khmer rouge genocide*. Washington, D. C.: National Geographic.

Nawuth Keat, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge invasion of Cambodia, describes his experiences, discussing the killings of his family members, his enslavement, the relationships that were formed between people from his community, and more.

127 pages

Call Number : 959.604 KEA

The American Plague : The Untold Story of Yellow Fever

Crosby, M. (2006). *The american plague : the untold story of yellow fever*. New York, NY: Berkley Books.

The American plague : the untold story of yellow fever, the epidemic that shaped our history.

308 pages

Call Number : 614.5 CRO

The Big Lie : A True Story

Leitner, I. (1992). *The big lie : a true story*. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc.

The author describes her experiences as a survivor of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz during World War II.

79 pages

Call Number : 940.53 LEI

Blizzard : The Storm that Changed America

Murphy, J. (2006). *Blizzard : the storm that changed america*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snow storm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.

136 pages

Call Number : 974.7 MUR

Bound Feet & Western Dress : A Memoir

Chang, N. P. (1996). *Bound feet & western dress : a memoir*. New York, NY: Random House.

A contemporary Chinese-American woman's life is contrasted with that of a great-aunt born in Shanghai at the turn-of-the century.

215 pages

Call Number : 305.42 CHA

Bulu : African Wonder Dog

Houston, D. (2010). *Bulu : african wonder dog*. New York, NY: Random House.

Discusses how Bulu, a Jack Russell terrier born on a crocodile farm in Zambia, became a foster parent for orphaned baby animals after being adopted by Anna and Steve Tolan, former police officers who left England to live in the African bush.

323 pages

Call Number : 636.7 HOU

Challenger Disaster : Tragic Space Flight

Bredeson, C. (1999). *Challenger disaster : tragic space flight*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Describes the events surrounding the explosion of the Challenger shuttle in 1986, the investigation of this disaster, and the seven astronauts who died.

48 pages

Call Number : 363.12 BRE

The Chicago Fire : October 8, 1871 : The Blaze that Nearly Destroyed a City

Naden, C. (1969). *The Chicago fire : October 8, 1871 : the blaze that nearly destroyed a city*. New York, NY: Franklin Watts, Inc.

On the evening of October 8, 1871, a fire began in a barn belonging to the Patrick O'Learys, of 137 De Koven Street, Chicago, Illinois. Victorious over a rain-starved city, exhausted firemen, and inadequate equipment, and aided by a steady wind, the small blaze grew into the Chicago fire, one of the most terrible disasters in the history of the city and the nation. Never again did a fire in the United States cause such extensive damage.

66 pages

Call Number : 977.3 NAD

Children of the Dust Bowl : The Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp

Stanley, J. (1992). *Children of the dust bowl : the story of the school at weedpatch camp*. New York, NY: Crown.

Describes the plight of the migrant workers who traveled from the Dust Bowl to California during the Depression and were forced to live in a federal labor camp and discusses the school that was built for their children.

85 pages

Call Number : 371.892 STA

Close to Shore : The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916

Cappuzo, M. (2003). *Close to shore : the terrifying shark attacks of 1916*. New York, NY: Crown Publishers.

Chronicles the two weeks in July 1916 when shark attacks plagued the New Jersey shoreline.

140 pages

Call Number : 597.3 CAP

Cold Hands Warm Heart : Alaskan Adventures of an Iditarod Champion

King, J. (2008). *Cold hands warm heart : alaskan adventures of an iditarod champion*. Denali, AK: Husky Homestead.

World-renowned dog-sled musher Jeff King recounts his more memorable races, including the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest, and his experiences living and racing in Alaska.

272 pages

Call Number : 798.8 KIN

Counting Coup

Colton, L. (2000). *Counting coup*. New York, NY: Warner Books.

A true story of basketball and honor on the Little Big Horn.

413 pages

Call Number : 796.323 COL

The Dark Game : True Spy Stories

Janeczko, P. B. (2010). *The dark game : true spy stories*. Sommerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

A collection of true spy stories from throughout the history of the United States, discussing personalities, missions, traitors, technological advances, and more.

248 pages

Call Number : 327.73 JAN

Dewey the Library Cat

Myron, V. (2010). *Dewey the library cat : a true story*. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Company.

A middle-grade adaptation of the true story of Dewey, a cat who was found in the library book drop and adopted by the staff.

214 pages

Call Number : 636.8 MYR

The Disaster of the Hindenberg

Tanaka, S. (1993). *The disaster of the hindenberg*. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc.

Describes the last voyage of the zeppelin, or airship, Hindenburg, which crashed in flames on a New Jersey airfield in 1937, and examines some possible causes for the disaster.

64 pages

Call Number : 363.12 TAN

Dust to Eat : Drought and Depression in the 1930's

Cooper, M. L. (2004). *Dust to eat : drought and depression in the 1930's*. New York, NY: Clarion Books.

The 1930's in America will always be remembered for twin disasters--the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. These two events combined to create a cycle of unemployment, poverty, and despair that affected every man, woman, and child.

81 pages

Call Number : 973.917 COO

Escape : Children of the Holocaust

Zullo, A. (2011). *Escape : Children of the holocaust*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

A collection of true stories about children who struggled to survive the Holocaust.

179 pages

Call Number : 940.53 ZUL

The Exxon Valdez : Tragic Oil Spill

Sherrow, V. (1998). *The Exxon Valdez: Tragic oil spill*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow.

Details the grounding of the Exxon Valdez oil tanker in Prince William Sound, discusses why this disaster happened, describes the cleanup effort, and suggests lessons learned from the event.

48 pages

Call Number : 363.738 SHE

Freedom's Sons : The True Story of the Amistad Mutiny

Jurmain, S. (1998). *Freedom's sons : the true story of the Amistad mutiny*. New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books.

Freedom's Sons is the extraordinary true story of the only successful slave revolt in American history.

128 pages

Call Number : 326 JUR

Freedom Walkers : The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Freedman, R. (2006). *Freedom walkers: the story of the montgomery bus boycott*. New York, NY: Holiday House.

Discusses the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a yearlong struggle and a major victory for civil rights.

114 pages

Call Number : 323.1196 FRE

The Great Fire

Murphy, J. (1995). *The great fire*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

Combines research with the personal stories of survivors to provide an account of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

144 pages

Call Number : 977.3 MUR

Hurricane Andrew

Sherrow, V. (1998). *Hurricane Andrew : nature's rage*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Details the course of Hurricane Andrew, which hit the southeastern United States in 1992, and describes the recovery efforts that followed the storm.

48 pages

Call Number : 363.34 SHE

I Am a Star

Auerbacher, I. (2006). *I am a star : child of the holocaust*. New York, NY: Puffin Books.

The author shares memories of her childhood in Germany, years of which were spent in a Nazi concentration camp, and includes several of her original poems.

86 pages

Call Number : 940.53 AUR

Inside the Walls : A Book about Drugs, Prison, Gangs, and Recovery

Simon, R. J. (2002). *Inside the walls : a book about drugs, prison, gangs, and recovery*. Roseville, MN: Roseville.

Do you wonder what it would be like to be put away? Have you ever thought about what it would be like on the inside? Would you like to hear what it's really like? Russell Simon has been there and wants you to know what it was like for him. He won't tell you what you want to hear, he tells it like it really is.

153 pages

Call Number : 362.29 SIM

Lexington & Concord, 1775 : What Really Happened

Colby, J. P. (1975). *Lexington & concord, 1775 : what really happened*. New York, NY: Hastings House.

Examines what happened before, during, and after the first battles of the American Revolution and provides a tour through the sites that witnessed these events.

128 pages

Call Number : 973.3 COO

Lincoln's Last Days : The Shocking Assassination That Changed America Forever

O'Reilly, B., & Zimmerman, D. (2012). *Lincoln's last days : The shocking assassination that changed america forever*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company.

Provides an account of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, discussing how actor John Wilkes Booth and his fellow Confederate sympathizers hatched their murderous plot, and following the ensuing manhunt, trials, and executions of the conspirators.

316 pages

Call Number : 973.7 ORE

The Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping : A Primary Source Account

Roensch, G. (2004). *The lindbergh baby kidnapping : a primary source account*. New York, NY: Rosen Central Primary Source.

The most famous American -- "They have stolen our baby" -- The case for the prosecution -- Hauptmann's defense -- The verdict -- Impact on history. Chronicles the trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the kidnapping of pilot Charles Lindbergh's infant son, and presents numerous primary source excerpts and photos.

64 pages

Call Number : 345.73 ROE

Lost in a Blizzard : The Towner Bus Tragedy

Jenkins, A. M. (2001). *Lost in a blizzard : the towner bus tragedy*. Logan, IA: Perfection Learning Corporation.

Relates the events of March 26, 1931 when a bus driver and twenty students became lost in a blizzard that struck near Towner, Colorado, trapping them for over thirty hours and causing the deaths of the driver and five children.

76 pages

Call Number 978.8 JEN

Lost Childhood : My Life in a Japanese Prison Camp During World War II : A Memoir

Layson, A. H. (2008). *Lost childhood : my life in a japanese prison camp during world war II : a memoir*. Washington, DC: National Geographic.

The author reveals a first-hand account of her and her family's experiences when they and other Dutch residents on the island of Java, were captured by the Japanese in 1942 and taken to a prison camp where they spent over three years.

111 pages

Call Number : 940.53 LAY

Marching for Freedom : Walk Together Children, and Don't You Grow Weary

Partridge, E. (2009). *Marching for freedom : walk together, children, and don't you grow weary*. New York, NY: Viking.

Recounts the three months of protest that took place before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s landmark march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to promote equal rights and help African-Americans earn the right to vote.

72 pages (oversized)

Call Number : 323.1196 PAR

Meltdown : A Race Against Nuclear Disaster at Three Mile Island : A Reporter's Story

Hampton, W. (2001). *Meltdown : a race against nuclear disaster at three mile island : a reporter's story* .
Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

In *Meltdown*, Hampton tells the hour-by-hour story of covering the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island as a U.P.I. reporter. Human error and technical failure triggered the worst nuclear power accident in the United States.

104 pages

Call Number : 363.17 HAM

Memories of Survival

Krinitz, E., & Steinhardt, B. (2005). *Memories of survival*. New York: Hyperion.

Presents a collection of embroidered panels depicting the childhood memories of the author's mother and her survival of the Holocaust in Poland during World War Two.

63 pages

Call Number : 940.53 KRI

The Mighty Midwest Flood

Bredeson, C. (1999). *The mighty midwest flood : raging rivers*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Details the disastrous floods that occurred in nine midwestern states when ten times the average amount of rain fell during the spring and early summer of 1993.

48 pages

Call Number : 363.34 BRE

The Oklahoma City Bombing : Terror in the Heartland

Sherrow, V. (1998). *The oklahoma city bombing : terror in the heartland*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Details the events surrounding the 1995 terrorist bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, as well as the investigation and trial of those responsible for the blast.

48 pages

Call Number : 364.16 SHE

The Orphan Trains

Flanagan, A. (2006). *The orphan trains*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point.

Discusses the use of orphan trains to take orphaned or abandoned children to new homes.

48 pages

Call Number : 362.7 FLA

Orphan Train Rider : One Boy's True Story

Warren, A. (1996). *Orphan train rider : one boy's true story*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Discusses the placement of over 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children in homes throughout the Midwest from 1854 to 1929 by recounting the story of one boy and his brothers.

80 pages

Call Number : 362.7 WAR

The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party

Calabro, M. (1999). *The perilous journey of the donner party*. New York, NY: Clarion.

Uses materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

192 pages

Call Number : 979.4 CAL

Phineas Gage : A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science

Fleischman , J. (2002). *Phineas Gage : a gruesome but true story about brain science*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin.

The true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848, and who survived and became a case study in how the brain functions.

86 pages

Call Number : 362.1 FLE

Revenge of the Whale : The True Story of the Whaleship Essex

Philbrick, N. (2002). *Revenge of the whale : the true story of the whaleship essex*. New York, NY: Putnam's.

Recounts the 1820 sinking of the whaleship "Essex" by an enraged sperm whale and how the crew of young men survived against impossible odds. Based on the author's adult book "In the Heart of the Sea."

164 pages

Call Number : 910 PHI

Saga of the Sioux

Zimmerman, D. (2011). *Saga of the sioux*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company.

An adaptation of Dee Brown's documented account of the systematic plunder of Native Americans during the second half of the nineteenth century, featuring photographs and maps.

208 p.

Call Number : 978 ZIM

San Francisco Earthquake, 1989 : Death and Destruction

Sherrow, V. (1998). *San francisco earthquake, 1989 : death and destruction*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Details the events surrounding the earthquake that took place in the San Francisco Bay Area in October 1989, as well as the cleanup and recovery efforts that followed.

48 pages

Call Number : 363.34

The Sense of Wonder

Carson, R. (1998). *The sense of wonder*. New York, NY: Harper Collins.

A revised edition of environmentalist Rachel Carson's 1964 work in which she discusses the importance of instilling children with a love and appreciation for the world around them; illustrated with nature photography by Nick Kelsh.

111 pages

Call Number : 508 CAR

She Said Yes : The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall

Bernall, M. (2000). *She said yes : the unlikely martyrdom of cassie bernall*. New York, NY: Pocket Books.

Misty Bernall, mother of one of the teenagers killed at Columbine High School, tells the story of her daughter's life, describing how Cassie had, at one point, started down a troubled path before dedicating her life to God, and sharing the details of the moment when Cassie's affirmation of faith resulted in her death.

163 pages

Call Number : 373.1 BER

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World

Armstrong, J. (2000). *Shipwreck at the bottom of the world*. New York, NY: Crown.

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.

134 pages

Call Number : 919.8 ARM

The Siege at Waco : Deadly Inferno

Cole, M. (1999). *The siege at waco : deadly inferno*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Discusses the incident in Waco, Texas, in 1993 involving David Koresh and the religious group known as the Branch Davidians.

43 pages

Call Number : 976.4 CO

Silent Spring

Carson, R. (2002). *Silent spring*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin.

Presents Rachel Carson's 1962 environmental classic "Silent Spring," which identified the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use; and includes an introduction by biographer Linda Lear and an afterword by scientist Edward O. Wilson.

378 pages

Call Number : 363.738 CAR

Small Steps : The Year I Got Polio

Kehret, P. (1996). *Small steps:the year i got polio*. Morton Grove, IL: A. Whitman.

The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

179 pages

Call Number : 362.109 KEH

Soul Surfer

Hamilton, B. (2004). *Soul surfer*. New York, NY: Pocket Books/MTV Books.

Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.

213 pages

Call Number : 921 HAM

Spirit Car

Wilson, D. (2006). *Spirit car*. St. Paul, MN: Borealis Books.

Diane Wilson draws on historical records to chronicle the lives of her Dakota Indian family, describing their experiences in the Dakota War, their involvement with French fur-traders, their struggles to survive the brutal winters, and their years on the Pine Ridge reservation.

218 pages

Call Number : 978.004 WIL

Temple Grandin : How the Girl who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World

Montgomery, S. (2012). *Temple grandin : How the girl who loved cows embraced autism and changed the world*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.

Examines the life and accomplishments of Temple Grandin, whose childhood diagnosis of autism and love of cows led her to revolutionize the livestock industry.

148 pages

Call Number : 921 GRA

Truce

Murphy, J. (2009). *Truce : the day the soldiers stopped fighting*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press.

Tells the story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas.

115 pages

Call Number : 940.4 MUR

The True Adventures of Grizzly Adams

McClung, R. (1985). *The true adventures of grizzly adams*. New York, NY: Morrow.

Recounts the adventures of the nineteenth-century frontier hunter, with an emphasis on his experiences with bears.

200 pages

Call Number : 978 MCC

Tsunami : The True Story of an April Fools Day Disaster

Karwoski, G. (2006). *Tsunami : the true story of an april fools*. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Publishing.

April Fools' Day, 1946: a sunny Hawaiian school day that started out as any other - until the ocean began to pull back, exposing the seafloor. Suddenly, someone looked up: Now a wall of water was racing toward them. This was no April Fools' joke - it was a deadly tsunami. Learn about this and other tsunamis from history.

64 pages

363.34 KAR

TWA Flight 800

Cole, M. D. (1999). *TWA flight 800*. Spring Field, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Describes the explosion that caused TWA flight 800 to break apart in midair, killing 230 people on July 17, 1996, and examines some possible causes for the disaster.

48 pages

Call Number : 363.12 COL

We Are Witnesses

Boas, J. (1995). *We are witnesses*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, Inc.

Excerpts from five diaries written by Jewish teenagers about their families' experiences during World War II.

181 pages

Call Number : 940.53 BOA

We Rode the Orphan Trains

Warren, A. (2001). *We rode the orphan trains*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company.

They were the "throwaway" kids, living on the streets or in orphanages and foster homes. Then Charles Loring Brace, a young minister working with the poor in New York City, started the Children's Aid Society and devised a plan to give these homeless waifs a chance at families that they could call their own. Thus began the extraordinary migration of American children.

132 pages

Call Number : 362.7 WAR

Woodsong

Paulsen, G. (1990). *Woodsong*. New York, NY: Penguin Group.

For a rugged outdoor man and his family, life in northern Minnesota is a wild experience involving wolves, deer, and the sled dogs that make their way of life possible. Includes an account of the author's first Iditarod, a dogsled race across Alaska.

132 pages

Call Number : 796.5 PAU

The Wright Sister : Katherine Wright and Her Famous Brothers

Maurer, R. (2003). *The wright sister : katherine wright and her famous brothers*. Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press.

Presents a brief biography of the sister of Orville and Wilbur Wright.

127 pages

Call Number : 629.13 MAU

Years of Dust : The Story of the Dust Bowl

Marrin, A. (2009). *Years of dust : the story of the dust bowl*. New York, NY: Dutton Children's Books.

Examines the causes of the Dust Bowl, discusses its effects, and provides primary source quotes and photographs.

128 pages

Call Number : 978 MAR