



Open a Book- Open the World Biographies for Elementary Grades

I Want/ Read



____ Andrews, Troy; Bryan Collier (illustrator). *Trombone Shorty* 2015 40 pgs Age 4-8 In New Orleans, music is everywhere. When young Troy found an old trombone that was nearly twice his size, he began to play and was given the nickname "Trombone Shorty". Read how he was encouraged by Bo Diddley, formed his own band, and has performed all over the world! (PB, Bio, CH, L760)



____ Berne, Jennifer; Vladimir Radunsky (illustrator). *On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* 2013 56 pgs Age 6-10 As a child, Albert questioned everything. As he grew, he began searching for answers. With interesting illustrations and sketches, this book introduces readers to the genius who was Albert Einstein. (PB, Bio, L680)



____ Bryant, Jen; Melissa Sweet (illustrator). *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* 2015 42 pgs Age 7-12 Shy, young Peter Roget loved to write lists of words. He made lists of Latin words, nature words, every word he could think of. This book shares the interesting life of Peter Roget and how his lists became Roget's Thesaurus. The illustrations are as interesting as the story. A great book to help children understand the power of words. (PB; Bio; CH; L590)



____ Coles, Robert; George Ford (illustrator). *The Story of Ruby Bridges* 1995 32 pgs Age 6-10 In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges was ordered by the court to attend an all-white school. Each day, she faced the mob of angry parents with courage and faith. Simply written for younger children. (PB, Bio, Sp, L730)



____ Freedman, Russell. *Lincoln: A Photobiography* 1987 160 pgs Age 10-14 Written in simple prose, Freedman presents the boyhood, marriage, and young professional life of Abraham Lincoln. Through text and photos, readers learn of Lincoln's presidency, thoughts, and reflections of the Civil War. (PB, NM)



____ Gerstein, Mordecai. *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* 2003 44 pgs Age 6-10 In 1974, Philippe Petit walked on a wire between the World Trade Center towers. The text and illustrations bring this exciting and fearless feat to life. (PB; Bio; CM; L640)



____ Kerley, Barbara; Brian Selznick (illustrator). *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* 2001 48 pgs Age 6-10 For every child who loves dinosaurs, this is a must-read! It is the true story of the artist Waterhouse Hawkins, who was the first person to use discovered bones to create models of dinosaurs for public viewing. Additional facts included at the end of the book. (PB, Bio, CH, L670)



____ Krull, Kathleen; Yuyi Morales (illustrator). *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* 2003 48 pg Age 8-12 A biography of a young, shy, Hispanic boy who grew to become a civil rights leader who worked to improve the lives of migrant farmworkers across the United States. (PB; Sp; CH; L880)



____ Levine, Ellen; Kadir Nelson (illustrator). *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* 2007 40 pgs Age 6-10 The stirring, dramatic story of Henry "Box" Brown, a slave who mailed himself to freedom in a crate through the Underground Railroad. (PB, CH, L490)



____ Martin, Jacqueline Briggs; Mary Azarian (illustrator). *Snowflake Bentley* 1998 32 pgs Age 6-10 Wilson Bentley was always fascinated by snow. In childhood and adulthood, he saw each tiny crystal of a snowflake as a little miracle and wanted to understand them. This passion eventually led him to photograph hundreds of snowflakes and share them with the world. Biographical information shared throughout the book. (PB, CM; L830)



____ Mattick, Lindsay; Sophie Blackall (illustrator). *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* 2015 56 pgs Age 6-10 In 1914, Harry Colebourn, a veterinarian on his way to tend horses in World War I, rescued a bear cub and named her Winnie after his hometown of Winnipeg, Canada. The amazing and true story of Winnie the Pooh written by Colebourn's great-granddaughter! (PB; L590)



____ McPhail, David. *Beatrix Potter and Her Paint Box* 2015 40 pgs Age 4-8 A young girl's love of nature and drawing is encouraged when she is given her mother's box of paints. The animals she painted became characters in stories, with the most famous being Peter Rabbit. (PB. Bio)



____ Morales, Yuyi. *Viva Frida* 2014 40 pgs Age 6-8 Using the vibrant artwork of Mexico's renowned artist, Frida Kahlo, Morales describes the author using both Spanish and English text. Biography of Kahlo included. (PB, Bio, CH)



____ ** Paeff, Colleen; Ji-Hyuk Kim (illustrator). *Firefly Song: Lynn Frierson Faust and the Great Smoky Mountain Discovery* 2025 40 pgs age 4-8 As a young girl, Lynn spent her summers roaming the Great Smoky Mountains and watching the fireflies at night. These special fireflies seem to perform a dazzling synchronized light show. However, everyone she tells about them says they don't exist in that part of the world. With determination and hard work, Lynn sets out to convince the scientific community that she's right-and to tell the world about the beauty of the firefly show she's seen her entire life. (Bio, NF, PB)



____ Provensen, Alice and Martin. *The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot* 1983 40 pgs Age 6-10 A beautifully illustrated (and somewhat witty) account of Louis Bleriot's first crossing of the English Channel by plane. Better brush up on your French accent! (PB, CM, L630)



____ Rappaport, Doreen; Bryan Collier (illustrator). *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* 2001 40 pgs Age 6-10 This picture book biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., brings his extraordinary life and profound message to young readers through powerful collage art and Dr. King's own words. (PB; Bio; L610)



____ Rosenstock, Barb; Mary Grandpre' (illustrator). *The Noisy Paint Box* 2014 40 pgs Age 6-10 Young Vasya Kandinsky was raised to be a very proper Russian boy. But when he receives a box of paints, the colors become music. Following his love of bold and daring art, Kandinsky became one of the very first painters of abstract art. (PB; Bio; L630)



____ Salazar, Aida; Molly Mendoza (illustrator). *Jovita Wore Pants: The Story of a Mexican Freedom Fighter* 2023 48 pgs Age 6-10 Based on the life of Jovita Valdovinos, here is the story of a young woman who courageously led the Cristeros (Mexican Catholics) to fight for religious freedom. (PB; Bio; L470)



Soontornvat, Christina. *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* 2020 288 pgs Age 10-17 On June 23, 2018, 12 boys and their soccer coach entered a cave in northern Thailand and became trapped one-half mile underground. Seventeen days later, with the entire world watching, they were rescued. Written for young people, this book includes personal information about the boys and rescuers, as well as numerous photos. An inspirational story! (PB, NF, NH, L1020)



Sousafzai, Malala and Patricia McCormick. *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* 2015 240 pgs Age 10-17 On October 9, 2012, a young girl in Pakistan was shot in the head by the Taliban while riding the bus home from school. She survived and became an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. Look for the Young Readers edition. (Ch, Bio, L830)



Tavares, Matt. *Becoming Babe Ruth* 2013 40 pgs Age 6-10 At the age of 7, George Herman Ruth was sent to live at Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys in Baltimore. There, he learned to play baseball and was scouted by the Baltimore Orioles. Nicknamed "Babe" because of his young age, Ruth became world-famous. But while baseball brought him fame, the boys at Saint Mary's were always in his heart. (PB, Bio, L810)

Bio- Biography, Ch- Chapter Book, CH- Caldecott Honor, CM- Caldecott Medal, L- Lexile, NH- Newberry Honor, NM- Newberry Medal, NF- Nonfiction, PB- Picture Book, Sp- Spanish

**** Denotes recently added listing**