

Young Adult Biographies



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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

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

Rolling Warrior

by Judith E. Heumann

YA BIO HEUMANN

One of the most influential disability rights activists in US history tells her story of fighting to belong in school and society. 194 pages

Jane Jacobs

by Rebecca Pitts

YA BIO JACOBS

Jane Jacobs, visionary activist, urbanist, and thinker was born more than a hundred years ago, yet the ideas she popularized-about cities, about people, about making a better world-remain hugely relevant today. 278 pages

When They Call You a Terrorist

by Patrisse Khan-Cullors

YA BIO KHAN-CULLORS

Patrisse Khan-Cullors grew up surrounded by police brutality, but through it 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. 245 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, the foundation of Ms. magazine, and 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

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.

It's My Whole Life

by Susan Wider

YA BIO SALOMON

Charlotte Salomon was a German-Jewish artist born in Berlin. This book covers Charlotte's remarkable life from her childhood and art school days to her time as a refugee in Nazi-occupied France, to her death in Auschwitz. While in hiding in France she created the largest single work of art created by a Jew during the Holocaust. 153 pages

Athletes

The Race of the Century

by Neal Bascomb

YA BIO BANNISTE

An inspiring and moving story of three men racing to achieve the impossible -- the perfect four-minute mile. 201 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

Kurt Vonnegut

by Dan Wakefield

YA BIO VONNEGUT

Wakefield, uses the second person "You," so it is as though Wakefield is a friend walking through Kurt's life alongside him, a guide for readers to his extraordinary life. Here is an American life, a burgeoning artist's life to inspire anyone who has read Vonnegut's work or who themselves aspire to write. 289 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 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

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 65 photos of Bernhardt on stage, in film, and in real life. 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

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

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 Quiñones

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 S. 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 Nurgaivyn Aisholpan

YA BIO AISHOLPA

Sixteen-year-old Nurgaiv 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 Nurgaiv, 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



Work with What You Got

by Zion Clark

YA BIO CLARK

Zion Clark has always had big dreams for himself despite the many hardships he faced growing up as a Black disabled child in the foster care system of Ohio. And yet his determination and grit pushed him to become an elite wrestler and wheelchair racer. His constant reinvention led him to activism, speaking out about the failings of the foster care system. 232 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



A Face for Picasso

by Ariel Henley

YA BIO HENLEY

Ariel Henley, diagnosed with Crouzon syndrome shortly after birth, details the many grueling surgeries she faced with her twin sister and her tumultuous feelings toward the art of Pablo Picasso. Henley tells of navigating the condition, being an outsider, and facing intentional and casual cruelty as a young adult. 378 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



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

by William Kamkwamba

BIO KAMKWAMBA

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



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

A Quantum Life

by Hakeem M. Oluseyi

YA BIO OLUSEYI

Poignant and hopeful, A Quantum Life charts the remarkable resilience of a boy who was offered few chances to succeed, but fought hard to achieve his dream. 333 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

Michi Changes History

by Ken Mochizuki

YA BIO WEGLYN

As a child of Japanese immigrants, Michi Nishiura Weglyn was confined in the Gila River concentration camp during World War II. Later, she became a costume designer for Broadway and worked as the wardrobe designer for some of the most popular television personalities of the '50s and early '60s. Then Michi embarked on an eight-year quest to expose and account for the existence of the World War II concentration camps. 150 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

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 experiences as a survivor of the 2014 genocide of the Yezidi 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

The Sun Does Shine

by Anthony Ray Hinton

YA BIO HINTON

Adapted for young readers, this true story follows Anthony Ray Hinton who spent thirty years on death row for a crime he didn't commit and how he transformed not only his own spirit, but those of his fellow inmates, until his release in 2015. 272 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

A heartrending, illustrated account of Uri's 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 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

Code Name Badass

by Heather Demetrios

YA BIO HALL

Virginia "Dindy" Hall was an exceptional and ambitious young woman who wanted to help the United States in WWII. When the State Department turned out to be a sexist boy's club, she went to England where she was immediately accepted by their Special Operations Unit. She became a spy, a saboteur, and an essential part of the French Resistance. 368 pages

A Rebel in Auschwitz

by Jack Fairweather

YA BIO PILECKI

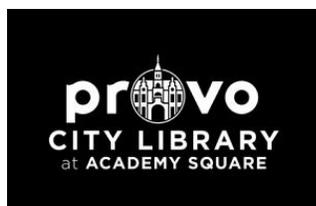
Witold Pilecki, a Polish underground operative, accepted a mission to uncover the fate of thousands interned at a new concentration camp, report on Nazi crimes, raise a secret army, and stage an uprising. The name of the camp -- Auschwitz. 337 pages

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



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