



Young Adult Biographies & Memoirs

Armstrong, Lance. *It's Not About the Bike*. B ARMSTRONG

The inspiring all-American story of Tour de France winner and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong.

Barter, James. *Idi Amin*. YA B AMI

Idi Amin, who preferred to be called "Big Daddy," will go down in history as one of the most vilified mass murderers of the twentieth century. Self proclaimed President of Uganda, Amin illegally seized power in a military coup in 1971 and tyrannically ruled ten million fellow Ugandans until he ignominiously fled the African country in 1979. In his wake Amin left deplorable examples of brutality, torture, murder, and demented personal behavior. During his eight years of barbaric rule an estimated three hundred thousand Ugandans were killed by his orders. Although Amin died in exile in 2003 a failed dictator, there is still much to be learned about Uganda's history, Amin's dictatorship, and how he orchestrated his rise to power and maintained power while inflicting so much pain on his followers.

Schuman, Michael. *Louis Armstrong: Music is Played From the Heart*. YA B ARM

Louis Armstrong said of his love and commitment to jazz music, "My whole spirit is what I blow on that horn." Armstrong overcame poverty and adversity to become one of the world's most influential jazz musicians. His energetic trumpet playing and his raspy singing voice gave him a uniqueness in the jazz world. Michael A. Schuman's new profile of one of America's greatest entertainers will enthrall readers as they discover why real legends never die.

Haugen, David M. *The Beatles*. YA B BEA

In the 1960s, the "Fab Four" revolutionized the sound and appearance of rock and roll music. This anthology chronicles the rise and fall of rock music's most famous band.

Busby, Cylin & John. *The Year We Disappeared: A Father-Daughter Memoir*. YA B BUS

Autobiography--With their lives unraveling around them, the Busby family left everything and everyone they had ever known--and simply disappeared. As told by both father and daughter, this is a harrowing true story of a family, a brutal shooting, and the year that would change their lives forever.

Welsch, Camille-Yvette. *Meg Cabot*. YA B CAB

Meg Cabot is the author of dozens of books for children, young adults, and adults. She is most famous for her series The Princess Diaries, which chronicles the life of an average teenager who just happens to be a princess. When Disney turned The Princess Diaries into two movies, Cabot's fame skyrocketed. Her best-selling books, including those in the Queen of Babble and 1-800-Where-R-You series, focus on strong female protagonists who struggle with the everyday concerns of contemporary women. In the process of telling their often extraordinary stories, Cabot shows that young women have what it takes to make their own decisions and accomplish great things. Meg Cabot chronicles the young author's path from small-town girl to nationally known writer.

Levine, Ellen. *Rachel Carson: A Twentieth-Century Life*. YA B CAR

Rachel Carson combined her love of science and writing in her award winning and controversial book, "Silent Spring." Revealing the dangers of pesticide use, it brought readers a new awareness of man's contamination of the environment and ultimately led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Calcines, Eduardo F. *Leaving Glorytown: One Boy's Struggle Under Castro*. YA B CAL

Autobiography--Eduardo F. Calcines was a child of Fidel Castro's Cuba; he was just three years old when Castro came to power in January 1959. After that, everything changed for his family and his country. When he was ten, his family applied for an exit visa to emigrate to America and he was ridiculed by his schoolmates and even his teachers for being a traitor to his country. But even worse, his father was sent to an agricultural reform camp to do hard labor as punishment for daring to want to leave Cuba. During the years to come, as he grew up in Glorytown, a neighborhood in the city of Cienfuegos, Eduardo hoped with all his might that their exit visa would be granted before he turned fifteen, the age at which he would be drafted into the army. In this absorbing memoir, by turns humorous and heartbreaking, Eduardo Calcines recounts his boyhood and chronicles the conditions that led him to wish above all else to leave behind his beloved extended family and his home for a chance at a better future.

Levine, Ellen. *Rachel Carson: A Twentieth Century Life*. YA B CAR

Rachel Carson combined her love of science and writing in her award-winning and controversial book, *Silent Spring*. Revealing the dangers of pesticide use, it brought readers a new awareness of man's contamination of the environment and ultimately led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Hubbard-Brown, Janet. *Ray Charles: Musician*. YA B CHA

Pioneering musician Ray Charles was one of the first performers of soul music—a combination of gospel, jazz, country, and rhythm and blues. Born into poverty, Charles was 7 years old when he went blind and 13 when his mother died. He quit school and set out to tour the country, making music and a little bit of money wherever he could. As his talents gained recognition, he signed a contract with a major record label and started to record hit songs. Charles soon became known in the music industry for his strong business acumen and remarkable talent for innovation in music. Over the course of his 58-year career, Charles overcame racism and drug addiction to play 10,000 concerts and win 12 Grammy Awards. He also became a source of inspiration for generations to come.

Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Prejudice*. YA B HOO

On March 2, 1955, a slim, bespectacled teenager refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Shouting, "It's my constitutional right!" as police dragged her off to jail, Claudette Colvin decided she'd had enough of the Jim Crow segregation laws that had angered and puzzled her since she was a young child. But instead of being celebrated, as Rosa Parks would be when she took the same stand nine months later, Claudette found herself shunned by many of her classmates and dismissed as an unfit role model by the black leaders of Montgomery. Undaunted, she put her life in danger a year later when she dared to challenge segregation yet again—as one of four plaintiffs in the landmark busing case *Browder v. Gayle*.

Cohen, Roger. *Danger in the Desert: True Adventures of a Dinosaur Hunter*. YA B COH

In the movies, there's Indiana Jones; but in the "real" world, there was Roy Chapman Andrews. Some say this fearless, larger-than-life adventurer—who, like Indiana, had a wide-brimmed hat, leather jacket, and six-shooter—may have been the inspiration for the big-screen hero. From 1910 to 1930, Andrews led countless expeditions for the American Museum of Natural History, boldly facing such dangers as killer pythons, man-eating wild dogs, marauding bandits, blinding sandstorms, and imprisonment by corrupt officials. Even as China and Mongolia exploded in revolutionary chaos, he and his team of paleontologists intrepidly journeyed by car, camel, and horse through the uncharted Gobi desert where he discovered the largest deposits of dinosaur fossils ever seen. His group amazed the world with their discoveries—and scientists are still following in Andrews's footsteps, digging in the rich sites he found.

Reef, Catherine. *E.E. Cummings*. YA B CUM

Even before his groundbreaking style helped change the landscape of American poetry, E. E. Cummings was going against the grain. Defying the traditionalists of the early 20th century, Cummings lived a life devoted to the shifting archetypes of art and literature, and wrote some of the most celebrated poetry of the modern era. Nearly a century after his first works were published, E. E. Cummings is still inspiring readers. Noted nonfiction writer Catherine Reef provides a well-rounded portrait of Cummings while examining the culture in which he lived as he developed his craft. Serving as both an exploration of his rich and sensational life as well as a foundation from which readers can learn about his work, this comprehensive biography includes Cummings's original sketches and paintings, quotes from friends and family, photographs, and the poetry of Cummings and his peers.

Cyrus, Miley. *Miles to Go*. YA B CYR

For the first time ever, fans of Miley Cyrus will get a chance to hear her story. Covering everything from her Southern roots in Tennessee to her meteoric triumphs in television, music, and film, this is the must-have book for any fan of the teen sensation. With humor, heart, and honesty, Miley will talk about her family, friends, life on the road, and how she navigates the ups and downs of living in the spotlight. Full of never-before-seen photos, poems, drawings, and stories, this is a unique look inside the life of an international megastar.

Dawson, George & Richard Glaubman. *Life Is So Good*. B Dawson

"What makes a happy person, a happy life? In this book, George Dawson, a 101-year-old man who learned to read when he was 98, reflects on the philosophy he learned from his father - a belief that "life is so good" - as he offers valuable lessons in living and a fresh, firsthand view of America during the twentieth century." "Born in 1898 in Marshall, Texas, the grandson of slaves, George Dawson tells how his father, despite hardships, always believed in seeing the richness in life and trained his children to do the same. As a boy, George had to go to work to help support the family, and so he did not attend school or learn to read; yet he describes how he learned to read the world and survive in it." "At ninety-eight, George decided to learn to read and enrolled in a literacy program, becoming a celebrated student." "Richard Glaubman captures George Dawson's irresistible voice and view of the world, offering insights into humanity, history and America - eyewitness impressions of segregation, changes in human relations, the wars and the presidents, inventions such as the car and the airplane, and much, much more. And throughout his story, George Dawson inspires the reader with the message that sustained him happily for more than a century: "Life is so good. I do believe it's getting better."

McKivigan, John R. *Frederick Douglass*. YA B DOU

Frederick Douglass was a runaway slave who became a leader in the abolitionist movement and later the early civil rights movement. This anthology examines Douglass's many diverse activities, his philosophy of reform, and his long-term impact on American race relations.

Dumas, Firoozeh. *Funny in Farsi—A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America*. B DUMAS

In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. *Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on Bowling for Dollars and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot. In a series of deftly drawn scenes, we watch the family grapple with American English (hot dogs and hush puppies?—a complete mystery), American traditions (Thanksgiving turkey?—an even greater mystery, since it tastes like nothing), and American culture (Firoozeh's parents laugh uproariously at Bob Hope on television, although they don't get the jokes even when she translates them into Farsi). Above all, this is an unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love. It is a book that will leave us all laughing—without an accent.

Reichard, Susan E. *Who on Earth is Sylvia Earle?* YA B EAR

Named TIME magazine's first "hero for the planet", Sylvia Alice Earle is a world-renown oceanographer. She was chief scientist for the U.S. NOAA from 1990-1992. In this biography, author Susan Reichard paints the life and work of Dr. Earle who expanded people's awareness of the importance of conserving our oceans and what we take out of them, demonstrating the interdependence of land and sea.

Yeatts, Tabatha. *Albert Einstein: The Miracle Mind*. YA B EIN

Today, Albert Einstein is considered a genius, but his parents, teachers, and friends didn't always agree. He learned to talk later than most children and struggled in school. But his passion for mathematics and physics led him to develop a series of revolutionary theories about space, time, and gravitation that transformed not just physics, but also our very understanding of how the universe works.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Ella Fitzgerald: A Twentieth-Century Life*. YA B FIT

The name Ella Fitzgerald brings to mind a silky voice crooning jazz standards. The First Lady of Song earned her nickname by touring almost nonstop for over fifty years, winning thirteen Grammys, and recording album after album. But who was the woman behind the name? How did a teenage runaway become a renowned jazz singer? Long after her homeless days, Ella remained insecure; she often suffered stage fright. Yet she was a born performer, able to improvise lyrics and record songs in single takes. She even seemed more comfortable on stage than off, and close friends found her hard to truly know.

Woog, Adam. *Anne Frank*. YA B FRA

Anne Frank's famous diary, the basic framework of an extraordinary life story, has made her an enduring symbol of courage and hope in the face of adversity -- a heroine for those who today still suffer under cruelty, oppression, and prejudice.

Gantos, Jack. *Hole in My Life*. B GAN

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

Hawk, Tony. *Tony Hawk: Professional Skateboarder*. J B HAW

In this young adult autobiography, Tony Hawk shares the stories from his life that have helped him become a skateboarding hero. Hawk speaks of being a competitive 'demon' child who found peace while on a skateboard. Classmates teased him because of his interest in an 'uncool' sport. Instead of retaliating with violence, he practiced even more. With his story, he will inspire a younger generation of fans to stand up for what they believe in and follow their dreams. Recommended for ages 8-12.

Abrams, Dennis. *S.E. Hinton*. YA B HIN

In 1965, Susan Eloise Hinton sat down at her late father's old Underwood typewriter and started work on a novel that would fully and accurately describe the teenage world she knew: the story of Pony Boy, his brothers, and their friends; their constant struggle to belong; and the conflicts between the haves and the have-nots. Two years later, the completed novel, *The Outsiders*, was published. Hinton made publishing history, single-handedly popularizing a new genre of fiction—the young adult novel. S.E. Hinton tells the story of the teenager who was the author of such young adult classics as *That Was Then, This Is Now* and *Rumble Fish*.

McClafferty, Carla Killough. *In Defiance of Hitler: The Secret Mission of Varian Fry*. YA B FRY

At a time when most Americans ignored the atrocities going on in Europe in 1940, American journalist Varian Fry put himself in great danger to save strangers in a foreign land. He was instrumental in the rescue of more than 2,000 refugees, including novelist Heinrich Mann and artist Marc Chagall.

Mullin, Rita T. *Harry Houdini: Death-Defying Showman*. YA B HOU

With his seemingly impossible escapes and incredible feats of illusion, Harry Houdini lived a life so fantastic that it seems almost too amazing even for fiction. Beyond his on-stage magic, Houdini also made his mark as an airplane pioneer, movie star, and debunker of frauds. His renown extended from his childhood home in Appleton, Wisconsin to Europe to Sydney, Australia. Children will thrill as they read about his seemingly superhuman successes—including when Houdini, hanging by his ankles and wrapped in a straightjacket, managed to free himself in less than three minutes. The biography also delves into Houdini's impoverished childhood, his close relationship with his family, his start in show business—and how he managed some of his famous tricks.

Pratt, Mark K. *Michael Jackson: King of Pop*. YA B JAC

This title chronicles the song and dance genius of the King of Pop, whose recent death reinforced the level of his global influence and stardom. While covering controversies and oddities, from the trial on molestation charges to his cosmetic surgeries to his amusement-park house Neverland, the book also details his incredible songs, videos, work habits, childhood, and groundbreaking career.

Jiang, Ji-li. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*. J 951.05 JIA

Ji-li Jiang was twelve years old in 1966, the year that Chairman Mao launched the Cultural Revolution in China. An outstanding student and much-admired leader of her class, Ji-li seemed poised for a shining future. But all that changed with the advent of the Cultural Revolution, when intelligence became a crime and a wealthy family background invited persecution--or worse. For the next three years Ji-li and her family were humiliated and reviled by their former friends, neighbors, and colleagues and lived in constant terror of attack. At last, with the detention of her father, Ji-li was faced with the most dreadful decision of her young life: denounce him and break with her family, or refuse to testify against him and sacrifice her future in her beloved Communist Party. Told with simplicity, innocence, and grace, this unforgettable memoir gives a child's eye view of a terrifying time in twentieth-century history and of one family's indomitable courage under fire.

Angel, Ann. *Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing*. YA B JOP

Forty years after her death, Janis Joplin remains among the most compelling and influential figures in rock-and-roll history. Her story—told here with depth and sensitivity by author Ann Angel—is one of a girl who struggled against rules and limitations, yet worked diligently to improve as a singer. It's the story of an outrageous rebel who wanted to be loved, and of a wild woman who wrote long, loving letters to her mom. And finally, it's the story of one of the most iconic female musicians in American history who died at twenty-seven. Janis Joplin includes more than sixty photographs, and an assortment of anecdotes from Janis's friends and band mates. This thoroughly researched and well-illustrated biography is a must-have for all young artists, music lovers, and pop-culture enthusiasts.

Kaysen, Susanna. *Girl Interrupted*. 362.21 KAY

In 1967, after a session with a psychiatrist she'd never seen before, eighteen-year-old Susanna Kaysen was put in a taxi and sent to McLean Hospital. She spent most of the next two years on the ward for teenage girls in a psychiatric hospital as renowned for its famous clientele--Sylvia Plath, Robert Lowell, James Taylor, and Ray Charles--as for its progressive methods of treating those who could afford its sanctuary. Kaysen's memoir encompasses horror and razor-edged perception while providing vivid portraits of her fellow patients and their keepers. It is a brilliant evocation of a "parallel universe" set within the kaleidoscopically shifting landscape of the late sixties. *Girl, Interrupted* is a clear-sighted, unflinching document that gives lasting and specific dimension to our definitions of sane and insane, mental illness and recovery.

Dash, Joan. *The World at Her Fingertips*. J B KEL

In a smooth, readable narrative, the drama of Keller's life unfolds. Annie Sullivan's remarkable teaching efforts that allowed Helen to communicate with the world are riveting to read. Keller's later life is perhaps less well known to children familiar with the "Miracle Worker" story. Her struggles through high school and her acceptance to and graduation from Radcliffe, her social and political activism, her adult relationship with Annie and Annie's husband, John Macy, and the "love affair" with her secretary Peter Fagan are carefully described using passages from Keller's autobiographies. The use of primary-source material (although not footnoted) brings the subject's vibrant personality, intelligence, and sensitivity to life in a way no narrative alone could. It is amazing to read about the woman's travels, and her influence in changing world opinion about the treatment of the blind. (Jennifer Ralston, Harford County Public Library, Belcamp, MD (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC)

Wyborny, Sheila. *Kim Jong II*. YA B KIM

Lucent Books' contemporary biography series profiles the lives and careers of some of today's most prominent newsmakers. Whether covering contributions and achievements or notorious deeds, books in this series examine why these well-known people garner public attention. Through quotations from the individuals profiled as well as from friends, supporters, and critics, readers learn how these men and women view themselves as well as how others regard them. Offering insight into the lives of people who have made an impact in the modern era, *People in the News* volumes are sure to be of interest to students researching current topics and popular culture.

Baughan, Michael Gray. *Steven King*. YA B KING

Stephen King began writing and submitting stories for publication as a young teenager. It wasn't until 1973 when he was 26 years old, however, that his first novel, "Carrie," was accepted by a publisher. By the 1980s, his books were published at a rate of at least one per year. How did King, once a struggling writer, become one of the best-selling authors of all time? "Stephen King" explores his path from a childhood of poverty to success as a screenwriter, film producer, director, and author of classics of the horror genre like "The Shining" and "Cujo."

Arenofsky, Janice. *Beyonce Knowles: A Biography*. YA B KNO

Although Beyoncé Knowles is not yet 30, the sensual superstar has already succeeded on many levels: as a dancer, singer, composer, model, music producer, video director and actress. This biography tells the story of a young, talented woman's meteoric rise in the entertainment industry. From a shy, demure Catholic schoolgirl growing up in Houston, Texas, Beyoncé Knowles eventually morphed into the first African-American woman to win the Songwriter of the Year Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Pop Music Awards. Beyoncé has won 10 Grammy Awards and two Golden Globe nominations. Her albums have reached more than 20 million people worldwide, and she has become a cultural icon to music lovers everywhere as well as a role model for young women.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster*. 796.522 KRA

When Jon Krakauer reached the summit of Mt. Everest in the early afternoon of May 10, 1996, he hadn't slept in fifty-seven hours and was reeling from the brain-altering effects of oxygen depletion. As he turned to begin the perilous descent from 29,028 feet (roughly the cruising altitude of an Airbus jetliner), twenty other climbers were still pushing doggedly to the top, unaware that the sky had begun to roil with clouds... Into Thin Air is the definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Everest by the acclaimed journalist and bestselling author of Into the Wild. Taking the reader step by step from Katmandu to the mountain's deadly pinnacle, Krakauer has his readers shaking on the edge of their seat. Beyond the terrors of this account, however, he also peers deeply into the myth of the world's tallest mountain. What is it about Everest that has compelled so many people--including himself--to throw caution to the wind, ignore the concerns of loved ones, and willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense? Written with emotional clarity and supported by his unimpeachable reporting, Krakauer's eyewitness account of what happened on the roof of the world is a singular achievement.

Abrams, Dennis. *Spike Lee*. YA B LEE

In his own words, Spike Lee is the man who single-handedly "broke the color barrier" in Hollywood in the mid 1980s. In a film career that spans more than 20 years, Lee has established himself as one of the United States' premier filmmakers, a director whose films explore the many aspects of the African-American experience. Never one to shy away from controversy--he has been accused of racism, anti-Semitism, and sexism--Lee uses film to raise tough questions and to provoke discussion. How was he able to break down the doors of Hollywood for himself and for other African-American directors, actors, and technicians? How has he continued to grow and develop as a filmmaker? Spike Lee presents a nuanced portrait of an artist who has become a symbol of contemporary American culture.

Partridge, Elizabeth. *John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth: A Photographic Biography*. 780.924 LEN

Award-winning biographer Elizabeth Partridge dives into Lennon's life from the night he was born in 1940 during a World War II air raid on Liverpool, deftly taking us through his turbulent childhood and his rebellious rock'n'roll teens to his celebrated life writing, recording, and performing music with the Beatles. She sheds light on the years after the Beatles, with Yoko Ono, as he struggled to make sense of his own artistic life - one that had turned from youthful angst to suffocating fame in almost a split second. Partridge chronicles the emotional highs and paralyzing lows that Lennon transformed into brilliant, evocative songs. With striking black and white photographs spanning his entire life, John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth is the unforgettable story of one of rock's biggest legends.

Li, Moying. *Snow Falling in Spring*. YA B LI

"Moying Li is twelve years old when the Cultural Revolution sweeps across China. Studying at a prestigious language school in Beijing, she seems destined for a promising future. But everything changes when student Red Guards orchestrate brutal assaults, public humiliations, and forced confessions throughout the country." "After watching her headmasters beaten in public, Moying flees school for the safety of home, only to find her beloved grandmother denounced, her house ransacked, and her baba taken away - along with his precious books. Struggling to make sense of her crumbling world, she finds sanctuary in literature. But with many schools shut down and most books forbidden, how can she keep her passion for learning alive?" "This memoir illuminates a dark time in China's history as it tells the compelling story of one girl's difficult but determined coming-of-age."--BOOK JACKET

Woog, Adam. *Jennifer Lopez*. YA B LOP

Known to millions as J.Lo, Jennifer Lopez is one of the most prominent Latin American performers in the world. An actress, singer, songwriter, dancer, and fashion designer, she has been called the most influential Hispanic entertainer in the United States by People en Español.

Mah, Adeline Yen. *Chinese Cinderella*. J B MAH

A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s. A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In *Chinese Cinderella*, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. Following the success of the critically acclaimed adult bestseller *Falling Leaves*, this memoir is a moving telling of the classic Cinderella story, with Adeline Yen Mah providing her own courageous voice.

Hunter, Jason. (Editor). *Malcolm X*. YA B X

From *Booklist*: "An annotated table of contents, discussion questions, a chronology, and a reading list add to each book's value, but it is the diversity of the source materials that will make books in the series particularly useful." From *School Library Journal*: "Both layout and organization contribute to the book's accessibility. An indispensable resource for those engaged in research or study."

Maltz, Leora. (Editor). *Nelson Mandela*. YA B MAN

Nelson Mandela fought for freedom and racial equality his entire life: for his beliefs and actions, he was jailed by the South African government for twenty-seven years. Yet, in 1991, he emerged from prison to become the first black President of the new South Africa. This volume charts his inspiring story.

Crompton, Samuel Willard. *Peyton Manning*. YA B MAN

Battling brothers. Archie who? Sons on the rise. Ole rocky top. The big time. The workhorse. The rivalry. Best man, no ring. Miracle season. On top of the world.

McBride, James. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. B McBRIDE

James McBride grew up one of twelve siblings in the all-black housing projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn, the son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white. The object of McBride's constant embarrassment and continuous fear for her safety, his mother was an inspiring figure who through sheer force of will saw her dozen children through college and many through graduate school. McBride was an adult before he discovered the truth about his mother: The daughter of a failed itinerant Orthodox rabbi in rural Virginia, she had run away to Harlem, married a black man, and founded an all-black Baptist church in her living room in Red Hook. In her son's remarkable memoir, she tells in her own words the story of her past. Around her narrative, James McBride has written a powerful portrait of growing up, a meditation on race and identity, and a poignant, beautifully crafted hymn from a son to his mother.

McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes*. 929.2 McC

"When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood." So begins the luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank's mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank's father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy-- exasperating, irresponsible and beguiling-- does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story. Frank lives for his father's tales of Cuchulain, who saved Ireland, and of the Angel on the Seventh Step, who brings his mother babies. Perhaps it is story that accounts for Frank's survival. Wearing rags for diapers, begging a pig's head for Christmas dinner and gathering coal from the roadside to light a fire, Frank endures poverty, near-starvation and the casual cruelty of relatives and neighbors--yet lives to tell his tale with eloquence, exuberance and remarkable forgiveness. *Angela's Ashes*, imbued on every page with Frank McCourt's astounding humor and compassion, is a glorious book that bears all the marks of a classic.

Grabowski, John F. *Josef Mengele*. YA B MEN

The world's most infamous doctor, Josef Mengele was responsible for sending tens of thousands of Jews to their death in the gas chambers of Auschwitz during World War II. His gruesome experiments in genetics research helped add to his reputation as one of the most cold-blooded villains of the twentieth century.

Marler, Myrna Dee. *Walter Dean Myers*. YA B MYE

Part of the series titled Teen Reads: Student Companions to Young Adult Literature which chronicles the lives of writers known for their young adult work, this volume is about Walter Dean Myers. Myers' works include fictions vital to the canon of young adult literature for African-Americans but he also has written adventure and mystery books, poetry, nonfiction, and books of photographs. The book includes synopsis of each important work as well as chapters about the author's life, encouraging young adult readers to think beyond the pages of Myers' works. The title is written in a clear voice for young adult readers but engages in discussions and topics to encourage a deeper reading of Myers' books. Annotation ©2008 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com)

Thomas, Garen Eileen. *Yes We Can: A Biography of Barack Obama*. YA B OBAMA

Yes, we can heal this nation. Yes, we can seize our future. And as we leave this great state with a new wind at our backs and we take this journey across this great country, a country we love, with the message we carry from the plains of Iowa to the hills of New Hampshire, from the Nevada desert to the South Carolina coast, the same message we had when we were up and when we were down, that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we will hope.

Uschan, Michael V. *Michelle Obama*. YA B OBA

Chapters include: A first lady like no other -- Growing up in Chicago -- College and a career -- A new career, marriage, and motherhood -- A politician's wife -- On a fast track to the White House -- Life as the first lady

Aldridge, Rebecca. *Apolo Anton Ohno*. YA B OHN

As the son of a single father, Apolo Anton Ohno showed a lot of spunk and energy. To keep out of trouble, Ohno got involved in sports like swimming and inline skating. But everything changed when he saw the short-track speed skating during the 1994 Winter Olympic Games. His natural talent for the sport quickly became apparent, and soon he moved, reluctantly, from Seattle to Salt Lake City for serious training. After both triumphs and disappointments, Ohno's hard work and determination paid off when he skated away with two Olympic medals--one silver, one gold--in the 2002 Winter Games.

Goldstein, Nancy. *Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist*. YA B ORMES

A richly illustrated biography of a pioneering woman artist and the characters she created.

Edmondson, Jacqueline. *Jesse Owens: A Biography*. YA B OWENS

In an era far removed from the African American celebrity athletes of today, Olympic great Jesse Owens achieved fame by running faster and jumping farther than anyone in the world. Author Jacqueline Edmondson explores Owens' struggles and hard-earned accomplishments, as well as how he paved the way for future generations of athletes, including color-line shatterer Jackie Robinson.

Silverthorne, Elizabeth. *Louis Pasteur*. YA B PAS

Louis Pasteur has been called the "Father of Modern Medicine." He founded the science of microbiology and changed the way we fight disease. His work has had an immense effect on our daily lives, including the invention of the process of pasteurization and the creation of vaccinations for rabies and other deadly diseases.

Phelps, Michael with Alan Abrahamson. *No Limits: The Will to Succeed*. B PHELPS

In *No Limits*, Michael Phelps reveals the secrets to his remarkable success, from his training regimen to his mental preparation and, finally, to his performance in the pool. Behind Phelps's tally of Olympic gold medals lies a consistent approach to competition, a determination to win, and a straightforward passion for his sport. Phelps had to overcome physical setbacks and emotional trials. When he was younger, he was diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder; other kids bullied him; even a teacher said he would never be successful. Later, he had to work through injuries that jeopardized his career. In this book, Phelps talks for the first time about how he has overcome these and other challenges - about how to develop the mental attitude needed to persevere, not just in athletic competition but in life.

Jones, Victoria Garrett. *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Courageous Spirit*. YA B ROO

Tireless worker, skillful negotiator, bold spokesperson for the rights of all mankind: more than a century after her birth, Eleanor Roosevelt remains one of the most admired women the world has ever known. Her development from timid and uncertain young woman to confident, courageous adult capable of dealing with both personal tragedy and public notoriety makes an inspiring story—especially for female readers. Stepping in to keep her husband's political career alive while he battled the after effects of polio, she ultimately transformed the role of First Lady from figurehead to activist, and set a new standard by which all her successors have been judged.

Marrin, Albert. *The Great Adventure: Theodore Roosevelt and the Rise of Modern America*. YA B ROO

Theodore Roosevelt is one of America's liveliest and most influential figures. He was a scholar, cowboy, war hero, explorer, and a brilliant politician. As president, Roosevelt's far-reaching policies abroad and at home forever changed both our nation's place in the world and the life of every modern American. Fascinating details and an intimate, fast-paced narrative explore the heroic life and complex world of an American icon.

Hampton, Wilborn. *Babe Ruth: A Twentieth-Century Life*. YA B RUT

Born into a poor family in Baltimore, George Herman Ruth Jr. was sent to a Catholic reform school at age seven, where he learned how to play baseball. Initially a talented southpaw, the Babe went on to shatter every home-run record on the books--when fewer games were played in a season and a heavier ball was used.

Baptiste, Tracey. *Jerry Spinelli*. YA B SPI

With his first novel for young adults, "Space Station Seventh Grade," Jerry Spinelli established himself as a writer of stories that reflect the real concerns of adolescents accompanied by wit and humor. His books, including the Newbery-winning "Maniac Magee," cover the controversial topics of race relations, gender bias, and even the Holocaust. In "Jerry Spinelli," learn more about this popular author's journey as a writer, from his first published poem about sports to the bag of chicken bones that inspired his first published novel.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Knots in My Yo-Yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid*. YA B SPI

From first memories through high school, Newbery medalist Spinelli pens his early autobiography with all the warmth, humor, and drama of his bestselling fiction. Photos included.

Stokes, John A. *Students on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown and Me: A Memoir*. YA B STO

Autobiography--Told in Stokes' own words, the story vividly conveys how his passion for learning helped set in motion one of the most powerful movements in American history, resulting in the desegregation of schools--and life--in the United States.

Marvel, Laura. (Editor). *William Shakespeare*. YA B SHA

William Shakespeare only lived from 1564 to 1616, but his works have lived on the stage and on the page for four centuries. Several authors in this anthology examine the biographical evidence and the continuing controversy over Shakespeare's authorship of the works attributed to him; others focus on why Shakespeare's works have proven relevant and inspiring to so many generations of readers, writers, scholars, and artists. The words Shakespeare coined, the characters he created, his plays and poems are his legacy, which permeates our language and culture today.

Li, Moying. *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution*. YA B LI

This inspiring memoir follows Moying Li from age 12 to 22, illuminating a complex, dark time in China's history as it tells the compelling story of one girl's difficult but determined coming-of-age during the Cultural Revolution

Calkhoven, Laurie. *Harriet Tubman: Leading the Way to Freedom*. YA B TUB

"If you are tired, keep going; if you are scared, keep going, if you are hungry, keep going; if you want to taste freedom, keep going." These are the words of Harriet Tubman, called the "Moses of her people" for leading slaves northward to freedom. After successfully escaping when only in her twenties, she put herself in danger again and again in order to help other slaves achieve liberty. And when the Civil War began, this freedom fighter not only spied for the Union, but became the first American woman to plan and direct a battle. Her compelling story is beautifully told here, along with a rich store of information about slave life, the Underground Railroad, and famous abolitionists.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West*. YA B TWA
A Newbery Medalist ("The Whipping Boy") delivers an engaging biography of Mark Twain focusing on his early days, from his childhood in Missouri to his adventures as a young man in the Wild West. Illustrated with archival photos and drawings, it also includes a sampler of Twain's novels.

Bundles, A'Leila. *Madam C.J. Walker: Entrepreneur*. YA B WAL
Madam C.J. Walker—the first American woman of any race to become a self-made millionaire—started out as a laundress with few prospects. Originally named Sarah Breedlove, she was the first in her formerly enslaved family to be born free. Poor for most of her life, Walker invented a line of hair-care products when she was 37 years old. Eleven years later, she owned and operated her own thriving business, the Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company. She trained thousands of consultants—almost all of them women—who purchased her products for resale to their customers throughout the United States, Central America, and the Caribbean. Through her work, Walker created a legacy of pride and do-it-yourself spirit that still resonates today.

Krohn, Katherine. *Oprah Winfrey: Global Media Leader*. YA B WIN
"Love her or loathe her, [Oprah] Winfrey has become proof that you can't be too rich, too thin or too committed to rising to your place in the world." Born poor in Mississippi, Oprah Winfrey developed a fresh, personal approach to celebrity talk shows that has made her a household name. Whether she's touting a favorite book or supporting causes of national or international interest, Oprah reaches nearly 50 million U.S. viewers weekly and millions more in countries around the world. Along the way, she's also become the first female African American billionaire, with her own successful magazine and production company. Her rags-to-riches story and zest for living continue to inspire her millions of loyal fans.

**Please visit our Adult and Juvenile sections for additional biographies!*

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