by L. Jean Wallace [1992: UT Press]

Since its publication in 1992, this book has become the single source guide for accurate, easy-to-understand information about most areas of civil law in Texas. This edition has been thoroughly revised to reflect the current state of the law through 1996. theme: Coming of Age cc: Life Skills

_Fanny Fern: An Independent Woman_

Fanny Fern was the pen name and alter ego of Sara Willis, the most highly paid newspaper writer of her day (mid-19th Century). Fanny Fern mocked Victorian sexism with sardonic wit and became enormously popular during her lifetime. The biography also relates Willis’ personal story as a woman who struggled against poverty and isolation and triumphed by making a living for herself and her daughters. theme: Women Leaders and Trailblazers (19th century) cc: Autobiography and Biography

_Kids Explore America’s Jewish Heritage_
by Westridge Young Writers Workshop [1996: John Muir Publications]

An excellent resource for understanding Jewish history and traditions. Written by kids, it is easy to follow but not elementary. Includes a glossary of Yiddish words, traditional Jewish recipes and explanations of Jewish holidays. See also: America’s African American Heritage, America’s Hispanic Heritage, America’s Japanese Heritage, Heritage of Western Native Americans and The Gifts of Children with Special Needs. theme: Belonging and Respect cc: World History

_Grace Hopper: Programming Pioneer_
by Nancy Whitelaw [1995: W.H. Freeman]

Part of the Science Superstars Series, this biography examines the life and career of programming pioneer and Navy Admiral Grace Hopper. As a child, Hopper was very curious and would take things apart to see how they worked. As an adult, she enlisted as a Navy officer and wrote computer programs. Her unique personality and determination helped her to overcome many obstacles early on in her career. The biography includes an index, glossary, and recommended further readings. theme: Careers, Women Leaders and Trailblazers (20th century) cc: Autobiography and Biography, Science and Math

_They Wrote Their Own Headlines: American Women Journalists_
by Nancy Whitelaw [1994: Morgan Reynolds]

This collection of biographies focuses on seven American women journalists: foreign, war and White House correspondents, a photojournalist, an advice columnist, an activist, and a TV journalist. The biographies provide a brief chronology of the women’s lives, illustrating their struggles and achievements. Each journalist’s story is an inspiration to young girls who wish to follow in their footsteps. Includes an index, glossary and bibliography. theme: Careers cc: Autobiography and Biography, United States History

by Philip Whitfield, Ed. [1995: Henry Holt]

This thoroughly illustrated manual clearly and directly explains all one would want to know about the human body. Colored photographs, charts, tables, illustrations, features, and “fact files” help to explain body functions and structure. Whitfield includes many helpful comparisons and examples that an average person can relate to. For example, he compares the human skull to a walnut shell and the different muscle tissues with the threads of a tire. Sections on eating disorders, emotions, fitness, and aging are included; however, information on AIDS is minuscule. theme: Coming of Age cc: Life Skills

_The Unexplained Psychic Powers_

In addition to the marvelous text, this book is filled with photographs and other representations of natural and supernatural phenomenon. While the actual fact of some of the reported events may be doubtful to some readers, Wilson presents a fascinating survey of cultural practices and rituals. Enjoying this book is an excellent way to stretch one’s mind by imagining the extreme variety of ways that humans choose to live on
Brave Black Women: From Slavery to the Space Shuttle
by Ruthie Winegarten and Sharon Kahn [1997: University of Texas Press]

This non-fiction book portrays the important roles that Black women have played in American history. It is an adaptation of Ruthie Winegarten’s Black Texas Women: 150 Years of Trial and Triumph, written for young readers in grades 4-8. This book celebrates the achievements of Black women as they support and build strong communities and enter the work force. Role models described include astronaut Mae Jemison and Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. The book also profiles teachers, businesswomen, civil rights leaders, community activists, doctors, nurses, athletes, musicians, artists and political leaders. Several photographs accompany the text. A helpful index and bibliography are included. themes: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Women Leaders and Trailblazers (19th century), Women Leaders and Trailblazers (20th century) cc: Autobiography and Biography, United States History

Black Texas Women: 150 Years of Trial and Triumph**
by Ruthie Winegarten [1995: University of Texas Press]

A comprehensive history of Black Texas women from colonial days to the present, this book highlights hundreds of fascinating women who made contributions in the workplace, education, religion, arts and entertainment, civil rights, business, and politics. theme: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Texas History

Black Texas Women: A Sourcebook**
by Ruthie Winegarten [1996: University of Texas Press]

This documentary history contains hundreds of original materials the author uncovered during her research for Black Texas Women. It includes autobiographies, poems, club minutes, slave testimonies, petitions, lawsuits, wills, plantation journals, newspaper clippings, ads, protest letters, congressional reports, contracts, and prison records. It concludes with a timeline that runs from 1777 to 1995. theme: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Texas History

Governor Ann Richards and Other Texas Women: From Indians to Astronauts--A Pictorial History
by Ruthie Winegarten [1993: Eakin Press]

Texas is more than its wars and its cowboys. It is the achievement of Texas women. Their roles as workers, community builders and creators -- not only of children, but of the institutions we all take for granted -- are documented and richly portrayed. This book is a multi-ethnic approach to the history of Texas women, from the pioneer days to the present. theme: Women Leaders and Trailblazers (20th century) cc: Autobiography and Biography, Texas History

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women**
by Naomi Wolf [1992: Doubleday]

A sweeping, vigorous book about the ways women enslave themselves — and their bank accounts to an industry that promises physical perfection. theme: Coming of Age cc: Contemporary Social Issues

FOCUS: Five Women Photographers
by Sylvia Wolf [1994: Albert Whitman]

This book examines the work of Julia Margaret Cameron, Margaret Bourke-White, Flor Garduno, Sandy Skoglund, and Lorna Simpson. Brief sketches of their lives and careers are given. Many photographs fill the page and clearly illustrate the diversity in styles and purposes of the photographers. The accompanying explanation for each photograph provides a fascinating look into the creative process. Other strengths include the variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds represented among the photographers, the easy-to-read text, and the inclusion of a bibliography. Teenagers of all ages will enjoy reading about these women and their field. theme: Careers cc: Arts, Autobiography and Biography

Gender and Ethnicity in Schools: Ethnographic Accounts**
by Peter Woods and Martyn Hammersley, Editors [1993: Routledge]

Due to the recent influence of feminism and campaigns for multicultural approaches to education, ethnographic studies now give sustained attention to gender and ethnic differences. This collection of studies explores arguments about discrimination and about the cultural processes by which student responses to school are mediated. theme: Belonging and Respect cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Zora Neale Hurston: A Storyteller's Life

This biography is part of a series entitled “Unsung Americans,” which presents the achievements of Americans of different racial and cultural backgrounds who helped create a diverse and democratic nation. Zora Neale Hurston’s life got off to a rocky start, but she persevered and obtained an education. Over her career, she collected black folklore, wrote novels, an autobiography, and several short stories and essays. She is known for the traditions she helped preserve and her celebration of the African American spirit. themes: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Belonging and Respect cc: Autobiography and Biography

Women Aviators
by Lisa Yount [1995: Fact on File]

Brief biographies of 11 notable women in aviation are recounted. This book includes black and white photographs, chronologies of important dates, and lists of titles for further reading about each woman. Amelia Earhart, Anne Morrow Lindbergh and Sally Ride each have a chapter. Less recognized aviators include Bessie Coleman, who had to go to France to earn her pilot’s license — since American flying schools in the early 1920s would not accept an African-American woman — and Bonnie Tiburzi, the first woman to be hired by a major airline as a pilot (in 1972). Despite many obstacles, these strong, determined women have triumphed and made their places in the sky and in history. themes: Women Leaders and Trailblazers (20th century), Going Places cc: Autobiography and Biography

Chinese Women of America: A Pictorial History
by Judy Yung [1986: University of Washington Press]

Using oral history interviews with 250 women of diverse backgrounds, as well as archival data, the author provides vivid portrayals of a wide range of Chinese-American women. theme: Asian American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Autobiography and Biography

Those Remarkable Women of the American Revolution

This book eloquently details the contributions of well-known women such as Molly Pitcher and Betsy Ross, in addition to the important efforts by other women like Sally Wister and Patience Lovell Wright. Chapters also demonstrate how women contributed to the war effort in various ways: via espionage, on the battle field, in their homes, and so on. The book is beautifully formatted with many illustrations. themes: Women Leaders and Trailblazers (18th century) cc: Autobiography and Biography, United States History

Red Flower of China
by Zhou Zhenhua [1992: Soho Press]

Zhou Zhenhua grew up in China in the 1960s. As the daughter of fervent Chairman Mao supporters, Zhou had an incredible devotion to Mao and his beliefs. At the age of fifteen, she joined the militant children’s organization, the Red Guards. The purpose of this organization was to destroy China’s history and bring the supposed enemies of Mao to their knees. Along with teens her age and younger, Zhou beat, tortured and humiliated innocent people. When Mao died, Zhou began to realize her mistakes. She came to America in the 1980s as a foreign student and, 30 years later, she wrote this book. Very moving and full of historical information about China. themes: Coming of Age, Asian American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Autobiography and Biography, Geography, World History

FICTION BOOKS

Spider Woman’s Granddaughters
by Paula Gunn Allen, Editor [1989: Beacon Press]

This collection of traditional tales and contemporary writing by Native American women derives its title from a Cherokee account – how Grandmother Spider brought the light of intelligence and experience to the people. theme: Native American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: United States History

Lost Magic
by Berthe Amoss [1993: Hyperion Paperbacks for Children]

Placing this fantastic tale in history is part of the reader’s thrill, since Amoss begins each chapter with quotes from Chaucer, Shakespeare and Yeats; mostly, however, the references are medieval. Ceridwen, the star of this book, discovers that being a “wise woman” requires more than learning how to use herbs and power without crossing the line into witchcraft. The book reaches a visually stunning climax as Ceri finds her hidden power and, consequently, a place of integrity. theme: Going Places cc: Historical Fiction

Journey to Nowhere
by Mary Jane Auch [1997: Henry Holt]

Set in 1815, this is the story of a family’s journey from Hartland, Connecticut, to the Genesee Country in Western New York. Eleven-year-old Remembrance (“Mem”) Nye, and her father, mother and young brother, sell most of their belongings and pack up the remainder in a covered wagon. Taking along their milk cow and a pregnant sow, they set off on the long, difficult trip to a new home and, hopefully, to a better future. Along the way, Mem falls off of the wagon and becomes lost, her parents are swept down a raging stream, and wild animals threaten their safety. Finally, though, they reach their destination. Now, however, they must tackle the daunting tasks of clearing the forest to plant crops and to build a log cabin. Mem has no interest in the “womanly arts” of cooking and sewing, but her resourcefulness and courage serve her well as she and her family face the difficulties of pioneer life. (This is the first book in a trilogy. The second title is Frozen Summer.) themes: Families, Going Places cc: Historical Fiction

Am I Blue? Coming Out from the Silence
by Marion Dane Bauer, Editor [1994: Harper Collins]

This is a collection of short stories by well-known young adult authors. Each story deals with the theme of an adolescent coming out to his or her family about being gay. Some of the stories, such as “Slipping Away,” by Jacqueline Woodson, or “We Might As Well Be Strangers,” by M. E. Kerr, address the painful issue of being rejected by a friend or family member because of sexual orientation. Others, such as “Winnie and Tommy,” by Francesca Lia Block and “Parent’s Night,” by Nancy Garden, show how loved ones can accept the news, even if they are not overjoyed by it. This is a great collection of stories from some of the most important young adult authors of the 1990s. theme: Families cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills

Girl Goddess #9
by Francesca Lia Block [1996: Harper Collins]

This collection of short stories introduces such vivid characters as Pixie, La, Raven, Tweetie Sweet Pea, Lady Ivory, and Alabaster Duchess. Some of these girls are adolescents, one is a toddler, one is no longer alive, and all are independent-minded and strong. The stories describe the characters’ daily activities, their innermost thoughts, imaginary friends, and their sometimes shocking adventures. Girl Goddess #9 is a terrific example of strong female protagonists in contemporary fiction. theme: Big City cc: Life Skills

A Different Beat
by Candy Dawson Boyd [1996: Puffin Books]

Sixth-grader Jessie Williams attends Oakland Performing Arts middle school. But if she cannot keep her grades up, her dad will send her back to regular middle school. Jessie must prove to her father, and to herself, that she can succeed academically and personally. However, her teacher, Mr. Reynolds, has given her a challenge: She will have to work with Addie Mae Cooper. Yuck! Watch Jessie as she gains self-esteem in this sequel to Fall Secrets. themes: Big City, African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Life Skills

Cochula’s Journey

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by Virginia Pounds Brown [1996: Black Belt Press]

Based on an actual event — Hernando DeSoto's expedition of 1539-1543 through parts of what is now the United States — this historical fiction novel tells the tale of 16-year-old Cochula, the daughter of the chief of Coosa. The dates and place names are historically accurate. All of the characters except DeSoto are fictional, but Brown provides evidence in a postscript that a person similar to Cochula did exist. DeSoto's ill-fated search for gold led him all over the southern area of the future U. S. He encountered many groups of native peoples along the way, generally treating them very badly. The Spaniards kill Cochula's father and enslave the able-bodied men and women of Coosa. The Coosa warriors die in battle and smallpox takes the lives of the women, except Cochula. Her bravery and determination help her to survive the long journey to the Great River, the Mississippi. There, she must decide if she will return to Coosa, or go on with the Spanish expedition. Themes: Going Places, Gangs and Violence cc: Historical Fiction

American Eyes: New Asian-American Short Stories for Young Adults
by Lori M. Carlson, Editor. Introduction by Cynthia Kadohata [1994: Henry Holt]

Though each is unique, the stories in this moving collection for young adults also have much in common. They all involve families and young people who have immigrated to the United States from Asia and are finding their place in a new and different environment. Written by Asian American authors, the main characters in the stories are of Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Japanese heritage. Most are trying to cope with the differences between their own or their parents' Asian homeland and their new, frequently hostile, surroundings. This collection provides a rich starting point for discussion of important cultural themes. themes: Asian American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Acclimation and Assimilation to the United States cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Geography

The House on Mango Street

Cisneros transports readers into a Mexican-American neighborhood, where Esperanza, the narrator, is growing up fast. Along with insight comes Esperanza's desire to transcend her surroundings and her yearning for what is best for her ... and her neighborhood. themes: Latina Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Big City cc: Geography, Life Skills

Woman Hollering Creek: And Other Stories
by Sandra Cisneros [1991: Random House]

These stories are about women with glossy black hair and dark eyes who know they look different and who know the score. So they cling to their culture like the anchor that it is. Some of the images are ironic and funny — such as a portrayal of American tourists in Mexico — while others explore the rage of Mexican-American women when their men choose White women over them. For mature readers. themes: Latina Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Belonging and Respect cc: Geography

Where the Lilies Bloom
by Vera Cleaver and Bill Cleaver [1969: J. B. Lippincott]

After both her parents die, a 14-year-old girl fights with all her creativity and stamina to keep her brother and sisters safe, fed, and together. They have a dilapidated house that belongs to a mean landlord who threatens them daily. More importantly, they have honor and the willpower to survive on their own. themes: Death and Dying, Disabilities cc: Historical Fiction

An Island Like You: Stories from the Barrio
by Judith Ortiz Cofer [1995: Orchard Books]

A collection of 12 short stories, this book describes life in Paterson, New Jersey, from a Puerto Rican American perspective. Each story is about a different teenager who lives in El Building. The same characters flow in and out of the stories, giving the book the feel of a novel. An Island Like You deals with topics such as harmful stereotypes of Latin American people and their attempts to balance cultural traditions with American modernity. themes: Latina Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Big City cc: Geography, Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills

The Goats

Stranded on an island by their cruel summer camp mates, Laura and Howie decided to take matters into their own hands. This novel follows their adventures as they learn that being a social misfit is not the end of the world. themes: Friendship, Belonging and Respect cc: Life Skills

Zoe Rising
by Pam Conrad [1996: Laura Geringer Book]

This story portrays a close friendship between a teenage girl and boy and depicts a strong young woman dealing with issues that isolate her from her peers. The protagonist possesses strong convictions and refuses to bow to societal norms. theme: Friendship cc: Life Skills

The Road from Coorain**
by Jill Ker Conway [1990: Random House]

The Road from Coorain is a beautifully written book about a young woman's life in Australia. The protagonist discovers that what is assumed to be universal can, in reality, be local, temporary and artificial. For mature readers. theme: Coming of Age cc: Geography

Walk Two Moons
by Sharon Creech [1994 Harper Collins]

In this novel, 13 year old Salamanca is dealing with the disappearance of her mother who had not returned from a trip to the Black Hills to see the land of her Native American ancestors. Eventually, Salamanca goes on a road trip with her grandparents, to find her mother. While on the trip, her grandmother tells a story about her friend, Phoebe, whose mother also left. At the end of the novel, it becomes evident that Salamanca's mother died in a bus accident on her way back to her family. This deeply moving story deals with loss and forgiveness in a beautifully written way. themes: Death and Dying, Native American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Life Skills

Little Sister
By Kara Dalkey [1996: Harcourt Brace]

Set in feudal Japan during the 12th Century, this science fiction novel cleverly blends history and fantasy. Mitsuko, a daughter in the noble Fujiwara clan, must risk her life to find the ghost of her sister's husband and consequently win back the soul of her sister. Aided in her journeys by a tengu, a mythical evil spirit, Mitsuko learns there is more to life than princes and pretty kimonos. theme: Families cc: Historical Fiction

Iphigenia**
by Terese de la Parra Translated by Bertie Acker. [1993: University of Texas Press]

This is the first English translation of a 1924 novel that follows a young woman's turbulent adolescence in Venezuela. theme: Latina Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Historical Fiction

Forged by Fire**
by Sharon M. Draper [1998: Aladdin Paperbacks]

Honored with the 1997 National Teacher of the Year award, Sharon Draper teaches and writes, working to empower young people, as well as to give them books that they just cannot put down. Forged by Fire may be more appropriate for high school students, since the story is disturbing: Gerard and his little sister, Angel, live with an abusive stepfather, who molests the little girl and threatens them both in evil ways. Their mother's drug use and a friend's death are other difficult issues that the characters face. Despite the betrayals, young Gerald is able to trust the father of one of his friends from school. However, it is on his own that Gerald confronts the problems in his family. Carrying the burden of dealing with abuse on a daily basis, Gerald, Angel, and their mother remind readers that real people live in homes where abuse is secret and daily. At the end of the book, Draper provides discussion topics, activities and research, and toll-free hotline numbers for readers who would like more information or who need help. For mature readers. themes: Gangs and Violence, African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Life Skills
Out of the Blue
by Sarah Ellis [1995: Simon and Schuster]

A lively and compassionate story about 12-year-old Megan's struggle to accept an unexpected family rival, who also happens to have a strong interest in astronomy. A thoughtful, positive, and sensitive portrayal of family life in all its day-to-day complexities. theme: Families cc: Science and Math

A Girl Named Disaster
by Nancy Farmer [1996: Orchard Books]

This is the fascinating tale of Nhamo, a young Shona girl from Mozambique. Faced with impending marriage to a diseased man (many years her senior) who already has several wives, Nhamo sets off up the river for Zimbabwe, in search of her father. Her journey becomes longer and more fraught with danger than she ever imagined. Armed only with her wits and a will to survive, Nhamo overcomes encounters with wild animals, water spirits, starvation, and land mines. Nhamo, whose name means disaster, fails in her original quest, but triumphs in her spiritual journey from girl to young woman. The length of the story makes this book more appropriate for older middle-school readers. The author includes a glossary of the foreign words used (mostly Shona), a history of the people of Zimbabwe and Mozambique (the story is set in the early 1980s), a description of the belief system of the Shona people and a bibliography of sources used. theme: Going Places cc: Geography

Yolonda's Genius
by Carol Fenner [1995: Margaret K. McElderry Books]

Eleven-year-old Yolonda is a big, strong girl for her age. Her brother, Andrew, is in first grade, and she has appointed herself as his protector. When someone is shot in their Chicago school, Yolonda's mother decides to move her family to Michigan. The move is an adjustment for the whole family. Andrew is having difficulty learning to read. He is more interested in playing his harmonica, which he does very well. Yolonda determines to prove to everyone, including her mother and her Aunt Tiny, that Andrew is a musical genius. This heroine will have to rely more on strategy than her physical prowess to accomplish this task. themes: Big City, African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Life Skills

Nobody's Family Is Going To Change
by Louise Fitzhugh [1974: Farrar, Straus and Giroux]

Emma Sheridan doesn't realize how much she has in common with her seven-year-old brother, who wants to be a dancer, until their father refuses to let Willie dance in a Broadway musical, pronouncing that black people do not have to dance anymore, so they shouldn't. What Emma wants and how she figures out how to get it is an exciting story, appropriate for younger, as well as older, teens. Louise Fitzhugh, author of Harriet the Spy, writes about and for the whole family. themes: Families, African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Arts, Life Skills

Shadow Spinner
by Susan Fletcher [1998: Simon and Schuster]

A young girl of 14 or 15 with a hobbled foot, Marjan suddenly finds herself summoned to the Sultan's castle by none other than the famed Shaharazad. Shaharazad is trying to save the young women of the country from the Sultan's wrath and needs Marjan's story telling to help her. Part historical novel and part science fiction, Fletcher weaves a compelling story about love and forgiveness. theme: Coming of Age, Going Places cc: Historical Fiction

The Loners
by Nancy Garden [1972: Viking Press]

A novel for older teens, The Loners is a boy and girl who fall in love and get hurt doing drugs. What happens is poignant, tragic and reparative. This author is incredibly sensitive and writes, with the same sense of terror and triumph, about girls who fall in love in Annie on my Mind and Good Moon Rising. Her characters, mostly white and upper-middle-class, respond to social pressures with resilient spirits. theme: Coming of Age cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Julie

The story of Julie Edwards Miyax Kapugen begun in Julie of the Wolves picks up where that tale ended—with Julie's arrival at the house of her father, Kapugen. Fourteen-year-old Julie has witnessed Kapugen shooting one of her beloved wolves from a helicopter. The act is more characteristic of a gussak, or white man, than an Eskimo who believes in the harmony and balance of nature, as he once taught Julie to be. Julie struggles to reconcile the changes in her father and to adjust to life in the village. Caught between old ways and new, she must find her place. When her wolves threaten the village's musk oxen industry, Julie sets off across the tundra once again, in an attempt to lead the pack away from her village. She must also decide whether to go to school and leave her wolves unprotected or to get married and stay in the village. Children will enjoy reading about life in icy Alaska and learning how Julie and her father finally strike a balance between Eskimo ways and gussak ways. themes: Belonging and Respect, Going Places cc: Life Skills

Julie of the Wolves
by Jean Craighead George [1972: Harper & Row]

Miyak, a.k.a. Julie, survives, with the help of wolves, on the Arctic tundra. Her story conveys the complexity of knowing oneself through a charming, easy-to-read narrative. The sequel is called Julie. themes: Belonging and Respect, Going Places cc: Geography

Julie's Wolf Pack

This is the second sequel to the award-winning Julie of the Wolves. George uses her years of observation of wolves to create an inside view of life in an Arctic wolf pack. Kaptu, an alpha male, must struggle against starvation, rabies, and human hunters to keep his pack alive. Julie, a human accepted by the wolves as one of their family, is now a grown woman. Her relationship with the pack is one of interdependence and care. This story challenges traditional boundaries between human and animal. themes: Belonging and Respect, Environment cc: Science and Math

Ellen Foster

The best part of this novel is how Ellen gets herself a new mama. After her biological mother commits suicide, her father's drunken behavior grows more threatening, and Ellen saves herself. By showing how Ellen saves herself again and again, Gibbons shows that finding safety and/or a home is a process that takes time and one that requires strategizing. For mature readers. themes: Cross Cultural Understanding, Families, Friendship cc: Historical Fiction

Rearranging and Other Stories
by David Gifaldi [1998: Atheneum Books]

From the book jacket: "In nine stories, nine very different people confront moments of truth—moments of Rearranging—that could be Rearranging for us, too." Yes! These stories are powerful and brilliant. Even the book jacket is well-written: "It is a moment, an episode—sometimes small, sometimes large—whose contents bend the mind and heart from old patterns to new." Although some of the subject matter is dark and complex, each story is lit from within, by something shiny, pure, a truth. Gifaldi is a fifth-grade teacher in Portland, Oregon. theme: Coming of Age cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Split Just Right
by Adele Griffin [1997: Hyperion Books for Children]

This is the story of a 14-year-old girl dealing with what it is like to be in a family of two. The book examines several definitions of family as they are explored in the main character's life. She is a strong young woman with ideas of her own that do not necessarily conform to convention. She is a good role model of how to be one's self at a time when one is most pressured to be part of the crowd. theme: Families cc: Life Skills

Running Out of Time
by Margaret Peterson Haddix [1995: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers]

Jessie is a 13-year-old girl living in the year 1840. She and her six siblings live in a log cabin with their
father, a blacksmith, and their mother, a midwife. Diphtheria breaks out, threatening the health of the children in town. This forces Jessie’s mother to tell her the horrible truth: it is actually the year 1996, and the town is a tourist site portraying the 1800s. Jessie must escape to the outside and find help before all the children die. She is a brave, resourceful protagonist as she learns to navigate in a society very different from her own. theme: Cross Cultural Understanding cc: Historical Fiction

*Justice and Her Brothers*

by **Virginia Hamilton** (1978: Scholastic Inc.)

This book is filled with tension and the exhaustion that follows it. There is also a comfortable familiarity, a pervasive strength that leaves the reader feeling exhilarated and simultaneously wrung out. Hamilton is a tremendous storyteller. In contrast to the majority of compelling fiction for young adults, this novel presents a nurturing mother and a nurturing father. Justice’s older twin brothers, on the other hand, are more frightening than nurturing. For readers of all ages who enjoy intensity and mystery. themes: Belonging and Respect, Families. cc: Life Skills

*White Bread Competition*

by **Jo Ann Yolanda Hernandez** [1997: Piñata Books]

This novel, which takes place in San Antonio, illustrates the struggle between adhering to one’s own culture and assimilation into the larger white culture. Luz, a Chicana, wins the town spelling bee. She immediately feels intense pressure from her relatives who want her to win, her relatives who want her to leave the white competition alone and the white townspeople who think she cheated. Sensitively written, the book also shows the danger and hurtfulness that can stem from ignorance of another’s cultural heritage. themes: Cross Cultural Understanding, Latina Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Life Skills

*Letters from Rifka*

by **Karen Hesse** [1992: Henry Holt]

Rifka is 12 when the story begins in 1919, and she and her family leave Russia because of the mistreatment of Jews. She dreams of America, which is where they are headed. She is detained and lives in Belgium for a year while her family goes on to America. Then she, too, takes the voyage and after being detained on Ellis Island, she finally makes it to America. Rifka is a wonderful, strong, determined character, and we learn about her and her stories through the letters she writes to her cousin Tovah in Russia. She actually writes the letters in the only paper she has available, her book of poetry of Alexander Pushkin that Tovah gave her. The story is based on the author’s family’s experiences. theme: Acclimation and Assimilation to the United States cc: Historical Fiction

*Toning the Sweep*

by **Angela Johnson** [1993: Orchard Books]

Fourteen-year-old Emmie and her mother, Diane, have come to California to help Emmie’s grandmother, Ola, pack to move with them to Ohio. Her grandmother is dying of cancer and, as a tribute to her, Emmie decides that she wants to record her on video. Through her journalistic interviews, she discovers the real way that her grandfather died and the reasons why her grandmother and mom left Alabama. She hears stories of her mother’s childhood, her own childhood, and her mother’s and grandmother’s fears, worries and joys. This poignant novel is similar to a diary. Emmie writes all that she feels, hears, sees and understands during her last trip to her grandmother’s house. theme: Death and Dying cc: Geography, Life Skills

*Now in November*


The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a middle-class urban family transformed into dirt-poor farmers, first by the Depression and then the great drought of the Thirties. Much of the family’s heartbreak arises from the father’s inability to respond to his eldest daughter, who loves him fiercely and tries to fill in for the absence of a son. theme: Families cc: Historical Fiction

*Kacy & the Space Shuttle Secret*

by **Sharon Kahn** [1995: Eakin Press]
This is the story of 11-year-old Kacy Holiday, whose plant project for the school science fair leads to a NASA adventure, a kidnapping and a lasting friendship with an astronaut. Kahn's book is an adventure story with a contemporary theme and multicultural characters. themes: Going Places, Friendship cc: Science and Math

The Long Season of Rain
by Helen Kim [1996: Henry Holt]

Set in Seoul in the 1960s, this gripping story is told from the viewpoint of a girl named Junehee Lee. Just eleven years old, Junehee is wise beyond her years. She lives in a South Korean household with her three sisters, her often-absent father, her much-loved mother, and her strong-willed grandmother. Tradition reigns: Junehee's mother must obey her father and grandmother, and girls leave home when they marry to live with their husband's families. With four girls, the mother's future is bleak. When a young orphaned boy comes to stay with them, the family's dynamics change irrevocably. Sometimes painful, often witty, and highly descriptive, this story illustrates that families in all cultures have their challenges. The Long Season of Rain is a fascinating glimpse of life in South Korea with well-developed characters and settings. For mature young adult readers. theme: Families cc: Geography, Historical Fiction

The Woman in the Wall
by Patrice Kindl [1997: Houghton Mifflin]

Seven-year-old Anna is so shy that she retreats into the very walls of her home. Building passageways and hidden rooms throughout the house, Anna lives apart from her mother and two sisters for the next seven years. When she turns 14, Anna realizes that she has become a woman and is reluctantly drawn out from her self-imposed isolation by her younger sister. This story contains an obvious element of fantasy that allows the author to illustrate Anna's painful shyness to extremes. The author touches on many issues that young girls experience through Anna, including the confusion and fear that she feels when physical changes occur from puberty. Young teenage girls will readily identify with the social and physical insecurities that are exaggerated by Anna's story. theme: Coming of Age cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Girls To The Rescue: Tales of Courageous Girls From Around the World
by Bruce Lanskys, Editor [1995: Meadowbrook Press]

A great book for intermediate readers, this compilation of fairy tales and folklore from around the world features young girls as protagonists. They use wit, brains and strength to handle the trials that come their way. There are three books in this series, all featuring young girls behaving proactively in traditional environments. theme: Going Places cc: Geography

A Ring of Endless Light
by Madeliene L'Engle [1980: Random House]

Part of the Austin family series, A Ring of Endless Light follows 16-year-old Vicki Austin's summer with her grandfather. As she struggles to deal with her impending death from leukemia, Vicki finds solace in her poetry and in her family. L'Engle teaches important lessons about coping with death and the need for family support. themes: Death and Dying, Families cc: Life Skills

The Young Unicorns
by Madeliene L'Engle [1968: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux]

One of the Austin family series, this novel begins with Emily, a gifted blind musician, who has come to stay with the Austins while her father is away on business. Emily is tutored by David, a seventeen-year-old who recently broke with his gang, the Alphabats. The Alphabats try to draw David back in. However, an evil undercurrent, stronger than just a street gang, soon becomes apparent. David's friends try to save him. Emily is the one who finally saves the day by uncovering the evil plot and who is behind it. Themes: Disabilities, Gangs and Violence cc: Life Skills

Very Far Away From Anywhere Else
by Ursula K. Le Guin [1976: H. Wolff]

A novel by a National Book Award winner, this story, narrated by a 17-year-old boy, is one of a kind. Le
Guin shows that romance is full of learning, pleasure, friendship, and more complicated matters. The main characters are precocious students. Owen is into psychology and Natalie is a musician. They talk a lot, and their relationship unfolds before the reader’s eyes. A more fantastical book by Le Guin is *The Tombs of Atuan* [1970: Atheneum], the second book in her Earthsea trilogy for young adults. It is also beautifully written. Called upon to enter the mystery of *The Tombs*, the reader, drawn to the young priestess Tenar and the wizard Ged, may experience the exultation of transformation, as well as the burden of freedom. Le Guin has a gift — she possesses a certain magic with words. theme: Friendship cc: Life Skills

_The Best Little Girl in the World_
by **Steven Levenkron** [1978: Contemporary Books]

Dealing with the subject of anorexia nervosa, Levenkron tells the story of Kessa, a high school girl who becomes weight-obsessed. The novel follows her first decision to lose weight to her eventual commitment to a hospital to save her life. Levenkron, whose true profession is working with girls who are anorexic, captures the fear and self-hatred behind the disorder and offers outsiders a way to understand and help girls who suffer from it. theme: Disabilities cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills

_Afternoon of the Elves_
by **Janet Taylor Lisle** [1989: Orchard Books]

Conventional 9-year-old Hillary Lenox has been warned by her best friends to stay away from Sara-Kate Connolly, the odd 11-year-old who lives in a dilapidated house. But Hillary is mysteriously drawn to the stick houses and ferris wheel that make up the elves’ village in Sara-Kate’s junky backyard. Hillary is also curious about Sara-Kate. Where is her mother? Is her father really in jail, as all the kids say? Hillary decides to find out for herself. This book, written in the third-person narrative, explores friendship and loyalty, as well as the cruelty of childhood. Teens will relate to the relationships in the story and enjoy the mystery of the elves. theme: Friendship cc: Life Skills

_The Giver_
by **Lois Lowry** [1993: Houghton Mifflin]

This Newbery Award and Lone Star Award-winning science fiction novel portrays an ideal world where pain, conflict, unemployment, poverty and other social ills are not problems. Every person and every household are closely monitored and controlled by the rules of “Sameness.” Jonas, on his twelfth birthday, begins his training for the career assignment he has been selected to perform: “Receiver of Memories.” He undertakes his training with pride but apprehension, for he does not yet know all that will be required from him. As “The Giver” transmits memories of the past to Jonas, what lies before him is a new understanding of pain, sadness, hunger, death, and warmth, happiness, options and love. The author has written many other compelling books for young adults, including the *Anastasia Krupnik* series. theme: Going Places cc: Life Skills

_In Country_
by **Bobbie Ann Mason** [1986: HarperCollins]

Mason is one of the best authors of so-called “heartland” fiction. In this novel, she examines the lingering effects of the Vietnam War. The protagonist is the teenage daughter of one of the war’s casualties. theme: Death and Dying cc: Historical Fiction

_The Garden_
by **Carol Matas** [1997: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers]

Although this book is the sequel to *After the War* (1996: Aladdin Paperbacks), the reader can start with either book and both are highly recommended, especially for older middle school readers, since the stories describe the violence of World War II and of war between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Ruth is a 15-year-old warrior, struggling to stay alive physically and emotionally. Ruth is also the name of the author’s mother; in her dedicating the book to her mother and in her basing the stories on actual events, Carol Matas has interwove the personal with the political. Ruth, her boyfriend Zvi, and the children escaping Poland, and the young people at the kibbutz are kind and fierce, wartime heroes who work together and who dare to dream together, even after so much killing. themes: Gangs and Violence, World War II, Death and Dying cc: Historical Fiction

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When She Was Good
by Norma Fox Mazer [1997: Scholastic Press]

When She Was Good deals with a dark subject: the after-effects of abuse. Em Thurkill suffers both physical and emotional abuse by Pamela, her disturbed older sister. After Pamela dies, Em stills hears her sister’s voice constantly belittling her. Em must fight to regain her own sanity and hope. Although her story is sad and difficult, Em demonstrates the power of endurance and courage. One senses that she will triumph over Pamela’s ghost. themes: Death and Dying cc: Life Skills

Where You Belong
by Mary Ann McGuigan [1997: Anheum Books for Young Readers]

It’s early Fall, 1963, in The Bronx, New York. Running away from her abusive father one night, Fiona ends up in the “colored” part of town, a place her parents have often denigrated and warned her about. She meets a girl there, Yolanda, a classmate she recognizes from her old school. Fiona has always admired Yolanda’s outspokenness and the way she stands up for what she believes in. Skipping school and spending the day together, the two become friends. Fiona learns more about the Civil Rights movement. The images on the television of protests and marches that once seemed remote now have more meaning for her. Yolanda lends Fiona some of her strength, and Fiona begins to change from hiding within herself to speaking her mind. Thus, Fiona’s journey of 30 blocks from home becomes a spiritual journey, as well. themes: Going Places, Big City, Friendship cc: Historical Fiction

Shizuko’s Daughter
by Kyoko Mori [1993: Henry Holt]

Mori’s novel, set in Japan, deals with the subject of parental suicide. Eleven-year-old Yuki thinks that there is no one as great as her mother, Shizuko. When Shizuko commits suicide, Yuki is forced to deal with the loss of her mother and the coldness of her father. When her father remarries a heartless woman, Yuki realizes she must take care of herself. Through the help of her grandparents, she learns to come to terms with her mother’s death and learns that she is a strong woman who can take care of herself. themes: Death and Dying, Families cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Geography, Life Skills

The Glory Field
by Walter Dean Myers [1994: Scholastic Books]

This is the story about the Lewis family, who managed to hang onto a piece of South Carolina land from the time of slavery until the present day. They did so despite adversity, discrimination and family problems. themes: Families, African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Historical Fiction

Chain of Fire
by Beverley Naidoo. Illustrations by Eric Velasquez. [1989: Lippincott]

In this sequel to Journey to Jo’burg: A South African Story, we follow the story of Naledi, who is now fifteen, as she continues to fight the battle against apartheid. When the South African government is forcing her family and the other residents to leave their village for the barren “homeland,” Naledi and her new friend, Taolo DiKobe, are among the first to fight back. Naledi soon learns that the government treats all of those who dissent with brutality, including children. The book includes a glossary of Afrikaan and Tswana words. theme: Going Places, Gangs and Violence cc: Geography

Journey to Jo’burg: A South African Story
by Beverley Naidoo. Illustrations by Eric Velasquez. [1985: Lippincott]

When 13-year-old Naledi’s little sister becomes very ill, she and her younger brother make a brave journey to Johannesburg, over 300 kilometers from their village, to bring their mother back. Their mother works as a maid for a white family. During their trip, they become aware of the struggle for freedom and dignity of the Black population. Naledi realizes that her own journey has just begun. This book offers a thought-provoking glimpse at apartheid in South Africa. A glossary of Afrikaan and Tswana words found in the story is included. themes: Going Places, Big City cc: Geography

April and the Dragon Lady
by Lensey Namioka [1994: Harcourt Brace]
April Chen is a senior in high school. She is making plans to attend college and is falling in love with Steve, a fellow geology enthusiast. She is also busy taking care of her grandmother, whose health and memory are faltering. Some of Grandma’s outrageous and often funny behavior makes April wonder if she is only pretending, in order to keep her family where she wants them. Grandma does not want April to go off to college. Caught between her Chinese heritage and her American upbringing, April must decide who she is and what is important to her. Touching and funny, this story highlights some of the pressures of children growing up with dual cultures. theme: Asian American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Life Skills, Contemporary Social Issues, Science and Math

Send Me Down a Miracle
by Han Nolan [1996: Harcourt Brace]

This is a coming-of-age story set in small-town Alabama in the present day. The main character is 14-year-old Charity, whose dad is the town preacher. Charity wants to follow in her father’s footsteps, until Adrienne Dabney comes to town. Adrienne is an artist from New York, who has come back to her birthplace to hole herself up in her house for a month for a sensory-deprivation experiment. Charity is fascinated by this woman. When Adrienne emerges from her house, she tells the town that she has seen Jesus sitting in one of her chairs. The community is soon split in two and Charity feels like she is in the middle. She is torn between her loyalty to her father and Adrienne, whom she finds exciting. As Charity fights her own battle to be independent and have her own thoughts, her family is falling apart. Charity shocks the entire town when she stands up to her father. She learns the valuable lesson that adults are fallible. Teens will relate to the battle for independence from their parents. The story portrays religion as central to a person’s life. It also reminds us that the beliefs we stand by may not be worth much without love. theme: Families cc: Life Skills, Contemporary Social Issues

Habibi
by Naomi Nye [1997: Simon and Schuster]

San Antonio’s Naomi Nye has created a particularly important novel for today’s teenagers. In this story, fourteen year old Liyana is uprooted from her St. Louis home and moved half way across the world to Jerusalem, her father’s birthplace. Initially resistant, Liyana begins to embrace the new culture and understand the privilege of knowing two cultures. theme: Cross Cultural Understanding cc: Geography

Foxfire: Confessions of a Girl Gang
by Joyce Carol Oates [1993: Dutton]

Meet Maddy-Monkey, Legs, Rita, V.V. and Goldie. They are the primary characters of Oates’ novel about a girl gang in Upstate New York during the 1950’s. These young women learn how to stick together in a world that constantly devalues them as human beings. They seek retribution for abuses like sexual harassment. But they also kidnap and steal in order to live out their dreams of an all-girl home in which they are not subjected to neglect and abuse by alcoholic and chemically dependent parents. The novel is timely in that many young adults feel the powerlessness that these young women experience and crave being heard and respected for the thinking and feeling people that they are. The book may also foster discussions about the strength of the relationships depicted, as well as about the less-positive criminal elements. themes: Gangs and Violence, Friendship cc: Life Skills, Contemporary Social Issues

Sing Down the Moon
by Scott O’Dell [1970: Dell Publishing]

This is the story of the mass displacement of the Navajo people by the conquering Spaniards, as told through the eyes of a 15-year-old girl, Bright Morning. She is forced to move from her beloved Canyon de Chelle to Fort Sumner. This was the fate of all Navajo tribes in the area in the 1860s. Her longing to return to her home never dies. Her husband, wounded at the hands of the Spaniards, has lost his will to fight. With the help of her courage and spirit, the two run away and return to the canyon. themes: Coming of Age, Native American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Historical Fiction

Zia

This book is the sequel to the popular Island of the Blue Dolphins. Zia is determined to rescue her aunt, Karana. Like their Native American ancestors, both Zia and Karana are displaced. Forced into the Mission
way of life, they resist their oppressors in brave and extraordinary ways, changing on their own terms. In the end, Zia learns that she cannot rescue anyone but herself. themes: Native American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Death and Dying cc: Historical Fiction

*Molly By Any Other Name*  
by **Jean Davies Okimoto** [1990: Scholastic]

Seventeen-year-old Molly has always been a quiet happy girl with only one thing separating her from the other high school seniors: she is adopted. When she discovers a program that allows her to search for her birth parents, Molly becomes very curious about her Asian heritage and who her mother really is. Molly has to struggle with her guilt over possibly hurting her adoptive parents and her desire to know who she really is. themes: Asian American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Families cc: Life Skills

*Peeling the Onion*  
by **Wendy Orr** [1997: Holiday House]

Set in Australia, this is the story of 17-year old Anna Duncan. Her 12th year of school, senior year, has just begun, and Anna has much to look forward to. She is determined to win the karate national championship this year, and a win at the first tournament places her closer to her goal. On the way home from the tournament, however, a car runs a stop sign and Anna’s life will never be the same. For mature readers, this is an honest, touching story of overcoming pain and rebuilding a life when the ways that you define yourself are suddenly taken away. Anna’s journey toward recovery encompasses not only physical but emotional healing — friendship, depression, first love and school exams are all stops along the way. themes: Disabilities, Sports cc: Geography

*Lyddie*  
by **Katherine Paterson** [1991: Lodestar Books]

A 13-year-old “factory girl,” Lydia Worthen has reasons for being in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s. As circumstances change, so do her reasons. What is most captivating about Paterson’s character is the way that she gets into the reader’s heart and will probably never leave. This novel examines social change, as well as the complexity of personal change, the two are interwoven masterfully. Having researched the writings of Lowell mill girls, the author provides a poignant history lesson and an unforgettable story. Paterson fans may also enjoy a collection of her essays on reading and writing books for children entitled *The Gates of Excellence*. themes: Going Places, Belonging and Respect, Big City cc: Historical Fiction

*My Name is Sus5san Smith: the 5 is Silent*  
by **Louise Plummer** [1991: Delacorte Press]

Sus5san Smith has one desire in life: to paint. Feeling as if her family belittles her ambitions, she moves to Boston when she is eighteen to live with her eccentric aunt Libby. Once in Boston, she meets her aunt’s ex-husband, a man with whom she has been obsessed since she was seven and who disappeared from her family. In the end, she is betrayed by her former uncle and learns a hard lesson about trusting one’s instincts and following one’s dreams. For mature readers. theme: Families cc: Arts, Life Skills

*The Girl with the Silver Eyes*  
by **Willo Davis Roberts** [1980: McClelland and Stewart]

Having silver eyes has always set Katie apart from other children. But no one knows that she can also move things with her mind and communicate with animals. Then, a stranger moves into her apartment complex and begins to ask a lot of questions about Katie and her odd behavior. Katie begins to realize that she may not be the only one with strange powers. Theme: Belonging and Respect cc: Science and Math

*Washington City is Burning*  
by **Harriette Gillem Robinet** [1996: Atheneum Books for Young Readers]

*Washington City is Burning* tells the story of Virginia of Madison, a 12-year-old slave at the Madison estate in Orange, Virginia. In 1814, when she is sent on a journey to the President’s House, she finds ways to help slaves in Washington City. When the British invade and burn most of the city, she helps slaves escape to freedom. Virginia’s story is a fictional work based on historical facts; several of the characters actually
existed. A bibliography, listing sources that the author used in her research, is included in the back. theme: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Historical Fiction

Betsey Brown
by Ntozake Shange [1985: St. Martin’s Press]

Thoughtful and assertive, 13-year-old Betsey will capture readers’ attention, as well as their hearts. What’s more, Betsey likes herself, the way her spirit and energy move her back and forth from childhood fantasy and adult responsibility. She uses her own sources of strength, particularly her strong will and imagination, to deal with the anxiety of social upheaval – her mother’s disappearance, the comings and goings of hired helpers, and her father’s insistence that she and her siblings join the Civil Rights struggle by becoming the first Black students in all-white schools. Shange’s story celebrates diversity, specifically within the St. Louis African American community. themes: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Families, Big City cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Historical Fiction

A Bridge Between Us
by Julie Shigekuni [1995: Anchor Books]

Told in the voices of four generations of Japanese and Japanese-American women, this novel is about the need to assimilate and, at the same time, to understand one’s heritage. Nomi, a Japanese American teenager, struggles with these issues within her family. After becoming pregnant, she travels to Japan. Only there does she begin to understand the world of her parents and grandparents and what will lie in store for her own daughter. For ages 14 and up. themes: Families, Acclimation and Assimilation to the United States cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Geography

Coffee Will Make You Black
by April Sinclair [1994: Hyperion]

For Stevie, the female protagonist of Sinclair’s shining first novel, the personal is political, a balancing of who she is becoming and who she is supposed to become. Thoughtful and sensitive, Stevie respects her mother’s wishes, but not at the expense of her own self-respect and growth. Set in the sixties, this novel is about Stevie’s experiences during junior high and high school, which include her first sexual experience, wearing her hair in an afro in celebration of the Black Power movement, a crush on the school nurse, and a falling out with a best friend. Paradoxically, as Stevie’s preconceptions shatter, her confusion comes together in a climactic intellectual rite of passage. For mature readers. themes: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Big City cc: Historical Fiction, United States History, Life Skills

Aruna’s Journeys
by Jyotsna Sreenivasan [1997: Smooth Stone Press]

Aruna, a middle school student, hates her Indian heritage. Having never been to India and considering herself an American, she doesn’t see what all her family’s traditions have to do with her life. She just wants to fit in. During the summer, however, her parents take her to India to meet her extended family. Once there, Aruna discovers the joys of having a cultural heritage. Comes with a glossary of Indian terms and a parent guide to the reading. themes: Going Places, Families cc: Geography

Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind

In this haunting novel, young Shabanu reveals many mysteries of her nomadic life, tending camels with her parents and sister in the Cholistan desert of present-day Pakistan. Rich, detailed descriptions abound of the people’s exotic desert customs. Shabanu has accepted that she must marry the young man selected by her father. But when plans change and she finds she must become the fourth wife of an elderly, but rich, landowner, Shabanu has to decide whether to accept such servitude or escape and shame her family. Thoughtful characterizations and compelling narration paint a touching and memorable picture of the people of this remarkable desert region. theme: Families cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Geography

Alphabet City Ballet
by Erika Tamar [1996: Harper Trophy]

Ten-year-old Marisol lives in a rough New York City neighborhood derisively called “Alphabet City.” With
a passion for dancing, Marisol auditions for and wins a scholarship to the famous Manhattan Ballet School. She soon learns the amount of hard work and discipline required of ballet, but strives to succeed. Marisol feels isolated from her classmates and family, as they cannot understand or appreciate how much ballet means to her, but she is determined to fulfill her dream. “A dream,” says Marisol, “is who you want to be. Who you want to become.” This is a wonderful story about a young girl who follows her heart despite overwhelming obstacles. themes: Latina Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Big City cc: Arts

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
by Mildred Taylor [1976: Dial Books for Young Readers]

Set in rural Mississippi, this realistic novel tells the story of the Logan family’s determination and pride. themes: Families, African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Historical Fiction

Marked by Fire
by Joyce Carol Thomas [1982: An Avon/Flare Book]

This historical fiction book tells the story of Abby, who was born in Oklahoma during a tornado. She had the gift of song, the love of her parents and the affection of her community, until a tornado hits and drives Abby’s family apart. She is also physically assaulted by a trusted community member and chased by a deranged neighbor. Abby emerges as a determined and strong young woman, overcoming the odds and learning the secrets of folk medicine from the town healer. theme: Families cc: Historical Fiction

Slave Day
by Rob Thomas [1997: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers]

Thomas proved with his first novel, Rats Saw God, that he can tell a great story and develop strong characters. He maintains those high standards with his second novel. The action all takes place over the course of a day in a high school outside of Austin, Texas. It is the annual fundraiser called Slave Day, in which students can buy a student body representative or a teacher to be their slave for the day. The book is told in alternating first person narratives by seven students and one teacher, and each character adds something unique to the story. Thomas does an excellent job of creating believable and very different characters that range from an older teacher to an independent, rebellious girl to a young African American student who protests the day’s events. theme: Cross Cultural Understanding cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Dicey’s Song
by Cynthia Voight [1982: Ballantine Books]

Courageous thirteen-year-old Dicey Tillerman has taken care of her three brothers and sisters ever since her mother became ill. Now they have all come to live with Gram, their supportive, caring grandmother. Over time, Dicey, James, Maybeth, and Sammy make friends and flourish in their new environment. Dicey, especially, learns how to give and take from people in her new community. This fictional book has earned the 1983 Newberry Medal. themes: Going Places, Belonging and Respect cc: Life Skills

When She Hollers
by Cynthia Voight [1994: Scholastic]

This story is about the day 17-year-old Tish takes a stand against her adoptive father’s sexual abuse. Keeping a “survival knife” with her, Tish goes to school and attempts to deal with her conflicting feelings and doubts. She eventually takes the first step needed to put a stop to her situation and talks to an attorney. The story is told from Tish’s perspective, giving the reader insight into how she has been affected. The language is graphic at times, reflecting the harsh nature of the subject matter, but is appropriate for teenagers of all ages. This story is not only about the effects of sexual abuse on the victim, but of one girl’s courage and strength to take action and stand up for herself. For mature readers. theme: Coming of Age cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm
by Kate Douglas Wiggin [1986: Dell]

Wonderfully sentimental to read, this book is a classic for a very good reason: Rebecca remains, to this day, a modern female anti-hero. Selling soap door to door, Rebecca learns the art of selling oneself, using her charm to help her neighbors, who have few resources. Full of resourcefulness, Rebecca demonstrates the
kind of purity that comes from finding love in even the most unlikely places. She defies convention by sitting where girls were not supposed to sit, up front with the horse-and-buggy driver, who becomes one of Rebecca’s closest friends. The book begins with a journey and ends with Rebecca’s understanding of her life as a journey, one that is not about to end in marriage! Romantic suspense is just one part of the excitement Rebecca feels; it is just one of the many parts of the love that she knows. theme: Going Places cc: Historical Fiction

*Make Lemonade*
by **Virginia Euwer Wolff** [1993: Henry Holt]

Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn babysits for a teenage mother of two, Jolly, to raise money for college. The story follows the relationship and family that develop between LaVaughn, Jolly and her two children. Can LaVaughn convince Jolly to get her life in order. The text is interesting to read, as it is written in 66 chapters and breaks at natural speaking phrases. theme: Families cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills

*I Hadn’t Meant to Tell You This*
by **Jacqueline Woodson** [1994: Dell]

Marie is a 12-year-old African American girl growing up in a small, predominantly African American town in Ohio. Abandoned by her mother, she lives a comfortable life with her father, a college professor. But when Lena, a “white trash” girl, enters her school, Marie’s life is changed forever. The two feel a kinship because Lena’s mother is also gone. As their friendship deepens, Lena confesses that she is being molested by her father. This book deals with important topics such as racism and incest in a realistic, thoughtful manner. Recommended for ages 11-14. Winner of the Coretta Scott Honor Book Award. themes: Friendship, African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Cross Cultural Understanding cc: Contemporary Social Issues

*A Way Out of No Way*
by **Jacqueline Woodson**, Editor [1996: Henry Holt]

The title of this selection is taken from the poem “Ought to Be a Woman,” by June Jordan, which is included in this compilation of stories and poems about growing up Black in America. When Jacqueline Woodson was growing up in Brooklyn, she would spend hours reading literature written by African-American authors. In A Way Out of No Way, she attempts to create the same experience for young readers so that they might be inspired by some of the same stories and poems. Excerpts from larger works include *Betsey Brown* by Ntozake Shange, *Sula* by Toni Morrison and *Big Bowls of Cereal* by Paul Beatty. A thoughtful introduction by the editor and information on the contributors are included. Some strong language and mature imagery are found in a few of the selections. For mature readers. theme: African American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Contemporary Social Issues

*The World of Daughter McGuire*
by **Sharon Dennis Wyeth** [1994: Delacorte Press]

When a kid at school calls her “zebra,” 11-year-old Daughter McGuire struggles to find out who she is. According to her family tree, she is African-Italian-Irish-Jewish-Russian-American. Daughter believes it would be easier to be just one. Besides that, she, her two younger brothers, and her mom have moved. Daughter will have to adjust to a new school. They must try to stay clear of the troublemakers, known as the Avengers! Life would be easier if their father would come back. Soon, Daughter makes some friends and they start the Explorers Club. At school, her teacher, Mrs. Jackson, assigns a family heritage project. Soon Daughter is learning about a brave young ancestor whose name she carries. Will Daughter be as courageous as her ancestor when she is tested? themes: Cross Cultural Understanding, Gangs and Violence cc: Life Skills

*Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers*
by **Lois-Ann Yamanaka** [1996: HarperCollins]

Written in Hawaiian-Creole, this novel tells the story of Lovey Nariyoshi, a Japanese American living on the island of Hawaii. Following the adventures of Lovey and her best friend, Jerome, the author makes important points about growing up in a society that offers no positive pop culture images for children who are not white. Some strong language. For mature readers. themes: Asian American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies, Friendship, Belonging and Respect cc: Contemporary Social Issues
WEB PAGES, ZINES, MAGAZINES: ANNOTATIONS

** indicates selections for advanced middle school readers and/or for teachers based on book length or difficulty of content. cc = curriculum category

Aboriginal Youth Network
http://www.ayn.ca

This is a website for Native American teenagers or anyone interested in Native American life. It offers listings of cultural events and places to post your own events. Also, it offers chat rooms and e-mail addresses to communicate with other Native American teens. theme: Native American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies

Action Girl
206.25.185.106/action/words.htm

Action Girl is a website maintained by Sarah Dryer. Dryer created the paper ‘zine Action Girl for years. It was a newsletter of things girls could do to become involved in their world. Action Girl is a great website. It offers Dryer’s ‘zine and her comic, Action Girl. In addition, the site provides links to other web pages. theme: Careers cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Aero & Space
http://graphixz.larc.nasa.gov/gs/samples/multi/022/022_00.html

This is NASA’s online cartoon page about space-related and astronomy-related careers. The original comic strip began in 1992 as a handout for middle school children to teach them about possible careers in the aerospace industry. Though the page is slow to load due to its intensive level of graphics, it is a great way to introduce kids to this aspect of science. theme: Careers cc: Science and Math

Cortex Communications, Inc.
www.cortex.com

Cortex was founded by two women in 1992 to create interactive programs with style and substance. Cortex produces multimedia instructional and educational/entertainment programs for corporations, agencies and publishers, as well as for middle and high school students. Cortex strives to expand the current market of materials to include formats that appeal to girls. cc: Science and Math

Deaf Cyber Kids
//dwww.deafworldweb.org/

This website is for teens who are deaf and young adults. It offers chat rooms and listings of organizations for deaf kids. theme: Disabilities

Distinguished Women of the Past and Present
www.netsrq.com:80/~dbois/

This website offers searches for distinguished women of the past and present. You can search a name and then read a biography on that woman. themes: Women Leaders and Trailblazers (19th Century), Women Leaders and Trailblazers (20th Century) cc: Autobiography and Biography, United States History, World History

Dream/Girl

This is a ‘zine created by Frances Dowell that offers itself as an alternative to Seventeen and other “lightweight” teen magazines. A current issue focused on comics, e.g., interviews with comic artists and suggestions for how to start one’s own comic. The issue also included great book reviews and craft ideas. To subscribe, send $3 to Dream/Girl, P.O. Box 639, Carrboro, NC 27510. theme: Careers, Coming of Age cc: Arts

Expanding Your Horizons
www.sig.net/~scicomp/twist/eyh.html

EYH presents conferences that are all-day events for school-age girls with hands-on workshops led by local women representing math, science, engineering and other technology-based fields. EYH conferences are held annually at more than 125 sites across the country. In the Austin area, Tomorrow's Women in Science and Technology (TWIST) sponsors annual EYH conferences for girls in grades 6-9 and for their parents and teachers. These conferences include joint sessions for children and adults, along with special workshops. Sessions for girls are designed to stimulate their interest in a variety of scientific and technical careers, while adults attend sessions to learn how to provide stimulating and supportive environments for their students and daughters. The 1997 EYH conferences were held on February 22 and March 22 at the University Teaching Center at UT Austin. For more information, call Vicki Meinhardt-Simmons at 282-9781 or visit the EYH website. theme: Careers cc: Science and Math

The Exploratorium
www.exploratorium.edu/

This site links one to the Exploratorium, a science museum in San Francisco. The site is part of the Science Learning Network and is funded by the National Science Foundation and Unisys Corporation. The page allows one to view electronic versions of exhibits at the museum, including one that explains how we identify faces. Some exhibits require Macromedia Shockwave, but this is a free download link located on the page. One can explore other "cool" sites as well; 10 new sites are highlighted each month. Twenty-three categories such as physics, life sciences, history and invention can be consulted to view more than 300 reviews of science, art and educational web sites. In addition, a "snackbook" that explains how to construct home and classroom versions of exhibits is included. theme: Environment cc: Science and Math

Girl Games, Inc.
www.girlgamesinc.com

Girl Games is a multimedia company dedicated to designing interactive entertainment and educational materials for young women and girls. Girl Games develops products that encourage females to explore technology. The company addresses the female perspective at every stage of creative development. It is also committed to providing young women with meaningful computer experiences that will prepare them for the demands of a technologically advanced future. Girls can join "Club Girl Games" at www.planetgirl.com. theme: Careers cc: Science and Math

Girls on Film
www.girlsonfilm.com

This website offers reviews of movies and updates on current films from a girl's perspective. It also offers reader polls that girls can participate in. theme: Careers cc: Arts, Contemporary Social Issues

GirlTECH
http://www.crpc.rice.edu/CRPC/Women/GirlTECH

Since its beginning in 1989, the Center for Research on Parallel Computation (CRPC), an NSF-funded Science and Technology Center, has worked to encourage more young women to pursue careers in mathematics and science. CRPC is the sponsor of GirlTECH '98, a teacher training and student technology council program. During GirlTECH's initial two-week training period, held July 6 through July 17 at The Rice School and Rice University in Houston, Texas, participating teachers from the Houston area will receive intensive technology training and explore innovative teaching strategies that impact gender equity in the classroom. theme: Careers cc: Science and Math

Grrls in Comics
www.gnofn.org/~jbourg/grrls/comix/comix.htm

If you like comic books, this is the site for you. It is filled with female comic characters, from Tank Girl to Cat Woman. Great graphics! theme: Careers cc: Arts

Gurl
http://www.gurl.com

This is a website for the electronic zine, Gurl. It has great graphics and articles. A current issue included writings about how to speak up in class and feelings about breast size. There's a lot to explore on this site! themes: Belonging and Respect, Coming of Age cc: Life Skills

The Internet Schoolhouse
www.onr.com/schoolhouse

This site is a virtual school community devoted to promoting global friendship and 21st-Century learning. The virtual environment helps keep students on task and is a safe place to work. Students learn to develop global friendships with children of all races, creeds and colors. Educators find a world of educational sites at their fingertips. The web site provides Internet training and classroom projects as well as a forum for teachers to post information. Also available is a staff-development book, The Internet Schoolhouse: A Teacher's Best Friend. The book is designed to help teachers utilize the vast power of the Internet in an educational setting and to demonstrate how lesson plans can be used in conjunction with the World Wide Web. themes: Cross Cultural Understanding, Friendship cc: Geography

National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian
www.si.edu/nmai/

This web site links viewers to the museum. Browse choices then include information on exhibits, text and film archives, site updates, general museum information and a calendar of events. Educators will find information about guided tours under the "Education, Resources, and Programs" link. Students will find this site to be a useful introduction to Native American life, literature, language, history and customs, as well as a good source of other Native American links. The site will entice the reluctant learner and is a good place to start for classroom research projects. theme: Native American Protagonists, Biographies and Autobiographies cc: Arts

National Women's History Project**
http://www.NWHP.org

This site is really a teacher's reference. It lists a catalog of videos and books that offer suggestions for including more women in all subject areas. The site also provides a list of implementation ideas for teachers and parents. themes: Women Leaders and Trailblazers (19th Century), Women Leaders and Trailblazers (20th Century) cc: Autobiography and Biography, United States History, World History

New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams

This is the world wide web version of the print magazine. It is filled with articles, stories, poems, artwork and letters. Young girls are encouraged to submit everything from pictures to media reviews. The page contains links to an advice column and several featured articles. Created in 1992, New Moon print version is a 48-page, advertising-free, professionally-produced, international magazine. New Moon celebrates girls as they are, explores the passage to the women they will be, and builds resilience and healthy resistance to the gender inequities girls experience. The web version offers several full text articles and illustrations but is essentially an abstract of the print version. It also stands alone as a good resource for young adults navigating the web. By partaking in a forum of creativity at a young age, young adults may continue that spirit later. themes: Belonging and Respect, Coming of Age cc: Arts, Life Skills

NrrdGrrl
www.nrrdgrrl.com

This is a great website for all girls who have ever been called "too smart." NrrdGrrl revels in smartness. The site includes an e-zine called Growl. It also lists other e-zines and paper 'zines. theme: Belonging and Respect

Planet Girl.Com
http://www.girlgamesinc.com
This website, created by Girl Games, Inc., has lots of cool stuff. Girls can look through their cartoons, hook up to other cool websites, and send their friends e-mail postcards. The page also has really nice graphics. Girls can visit the interwire room to read about news issues, such as Take Your Daughters To Work Day. The page also allows girls to look through magazines, such as Teen Voices and HUES, online. theme: Belonging and Respect cc: Arts, Contemporary Social Issues

*Star Child*

http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/

Created by the High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center, a division of the lab for High Energy Astrophysics at NASA, this website is an interactive page in which children can choose subjects and skill levels. For example, one can learn about the solar system, universe or “space stuff” and can choose easy or difficult activities. Activities range from placing the planets around the sun to problem-solving how to fix a component of a spacecraft while in flight. theme: Careers, Environment cc: Science and Math

*Tech Girl**

www.girltech.com

This website is invaluable as a teacher’s resource. It offers articles on gender equity in the classroom and how to encourage girls to become part of the technological world. The site also has lots of links to other great sites. theme: Belonging and Respect cc: Science and Math, Contemporary Social Issues

*Teen Voices Home Page*


This is the world wide web version of the print magazine written entirely by young women. The site is interactive with hyperlinks to pages containing surveys, articles and advice columns. It is an intelligent alternative packed with original writing, poetry and artwork. Girls are encouraged to submit their own stories and poems. Topics include self-esteem, racism, sexism, feminism, popular culture, health, and other important issues. *Teen Voices* can be used to help teenage girls understand and fight against gender inequalities. It may also be a resource to assist girls in coping with the normal fears and insecurities of being a teenager. themes: Belonging and Respect, Coming of Age cc: Arts, Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills

*Things I Must Do To-day*

This ‘zine provides an amazing assortment of ways in which girls can get involved in their communities and make things better for women. A recent issue includes articles about a Carl’s Jr. boycott and ways to save animals that are slated for slaughter. The ‘zine’s creator, Susan, also offers activity packs that teach girls such things as how to organize their own boycotts. This is a great ‘zine for girls of all ages. Those interested in subscribing can contact Susan at: P.O. Box 13947, Berkeley CA 94712 or Rgirls@aol.com. Subscriptions are $12 and single issues are $3. themes: Careers, Environment cc: Life Skills, Contemporary Social Issues

*Things the Man Don’t Want You To Know* by [http://www.gsis.utexas.edu/~hkande/webproj.html](http://www.gsis.utexas.edu/~hkande/webproj.html) [1997: Electronic Resources for Children and Young Adults]

This web page is designed to provide resources for all young people. Topics include sexuality, sexual health, body image and vegetarianism, among others. There are also links to great places in the cyberworld where other young people offer friendship and valuable information, as well as advice for building web pages. This site is primarily a source for links to other pages, but it provides annotations of information especially relevant for young adults. themes: Coming of Age, Environment cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills

*Voices of Youth*

This web page allows children and adults of all ages to interactively add their voices to others’ around the world. The main issue presented is the rights of children: All of the ideas submitted are shared online. Through such areas as The Meeting Place, The Learning Center, and The Teacher’s Place, everyone can find the perfect outlet for their interests. Projects are suggested for thinking globally/acting locally or for working together in groups to accomplish broad worldwide goals. themes: Belonging and Respect, Cross Cultural Understanding cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Geography


A relatively new magazine, “Wig” first appeared in 1996. The publication comes out four times a year and it is bursting with information for girls and women. For example, the Winter 1997 issue included interviews with female snowboarders and skiboarders, an article about anorexia, interviews with female comic artists, and book and music reviews. theme: Careers, Sports cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Women in Engineering Program
www.utexas.edu/coe/student/wep

WEP at UT Austin was established in 1992 to recruit, retain and support female students in the college of engineering. WEP’s premier pre-college program, Careers in Engineering for Women, is an outreach program designed to encourage girls and young women to pursue careers in engineering. Through hands-on experiences, middle school girls develop their interests in math, science and engineering. Teams made up of four sixth or seventh grade students, in addition to math and science teachers, participate in six-day, hands-on sessions. Groups may apply to participate in the next Careers in Engineering for Women program scheduled for June 1997. The program is free to all participants and includes room and board. In addition, teachers receive a modest financial compensation for their participation. theme: Careers cc: Science and Math

Women’s Studies at UT Austin
www.utexas.edu/depts/wstudies

This webpage highlights an interdisciplinary, university-wide program drawing on the talents of more than 150 distinguished faculty from 29 departments and 14 colleges and schools. WS supports scholarship on women and gender and organizes educational programs that communicate these findings to the public. Among the publications available from WS is this list and the Selected High School Reading List in Women’s Studies: A Resource for Educators with Guide Included. cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Youth Resource
http://www.youthresource.com

This web site provides national and local resources to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) youth. Links access current news, politics, hotline numbers, chat boards, high school and campus pages, and support groups. Online information is available on a broad range of topics. Links to other GLBT pages, national and professional organizations, and online magazines for youth are also available. theme: Belonging and Respect, Coming of Age cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills

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RESOURCES: ANNOTATIONS

** indicates selections for advanced middle school readers and/or for teachers based on book length or difficulty of content.

Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14

A great resource, this book is separated into chapters by reading level. The suggested books are still in print and are enthusiastically described. Included is an excellent index that not only lists books by title, author and subject, but also by date, genre, region and country. Intermingled throughout the book are quotations from books or from kids, authors, and others about their reading experiences.

theme: Cross Cultural Understanding cc: Contemporary Social Issues

Literature for Today's Young Adults**
by Kenneth L. Donelson and Alleen Pace Nilsen [1997: Longman]

This is a textbook written for adults who want to know more about young adult literature, particularly with regard to how it can be incorporated into classroom curricula. The authors provide history and background information about young adult literature, evaluation criteria, and recommended titles. They include chapters on various genres of literature, on censorship, and on using YA literature in the classroom. Focus boxes located throughout the text provide suggested titles with brief descriptions of books, movies and magazines on specific topics. cc: Contemporary Social Issues

High-Interest Books for Teens: A Guide to Book Reviews and Biographical Sources
by Gale Research [1988: Gale Research]

This reference tool includes more than 2,000 authors and 3,500 titles considered suitable for teen readers. The book focuses on reviews and biographical sources. Arranged alphabetically by author, these reviews include detailed citations of periodicals by title. Entries are included in the book by recommendation of librarians, teachers, publishers, reviewers and critics. A special feature of the work is the detail of the biographical sections. High-Interest Books for Teens is a good resource for accessing the high/low material so important to the future of reading.

School Library Journal
by Lillian Gerhardt, Editor [Published bimonthly: R. R. Bowker]

This journal reviews all new books for children, young adults and school librarians. Reviews are contributed by volunteer practicing librarians and include fiction, nonfiction, books in Spanish, music, reference, films and videos and CD-ROM/software. Grade levels are indicated for each item. Merits include the extensive film and video coverage, as well as the indication of adult books of interest to young adults. cc: Arts

The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women.**
by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, Editors [1985: Norton]

Organized chronologically, this readable volume contains excellent notes and brief biographies that increase the scope of its reference far beyond its stories, essays, and poems.

Recreating the Past: A Guide to American and World Historical Fiction for Children and Young Adults

This is an annotated bibliography of more than 970 perceptive and historically accurate works. Setting, protagonist profile, and theme are supplied for each work. The ISBN and current publication availability information is also cited. Books are arranged according to a timeline, ranging from prehistory Greece to the world wars. Countries from all over the world are represented. Special features of this reference work are the seven appendices, including grade level, highlights of history, minority protagonists, famous people appearing in works, sequels with recurring characters, and
European/British settings. Another outstanding feature is the section identifying books normally classified as adult fiction but appropriate for young adults. This will be a wonderful resource for teachers trying to present alternate materials while teaching history. cc: World History

Appraisal: Science Books for Young People

by Diane Holzheimer, Editor [Published quarterly: Children's Science Book Review Committee]

This journal contains evaluations of science books for young adults, including book, series and teacher resource reviews. Ratings indicate titles as being excellent, very good, good, fair or unacceptable. Each item is critically reviewed by both a children's librarian and a subject specialist in the field. Age levels are also provided. cc: Science and Math

Notable American Women 1607-1950

by Edward T. and Janet Wilson James, Editors [1971: Belknap, Harvard University Press]

Researched and developed at Radcliffe, this remarkable compilation includes the life stories of 1,359 women who influenced their time and society. Each woman is described in the context of her historic period. themes: Women Leaders and Trailblazers (19th Century), Women Leaders and Trailblazers (20th Century) cc: United States History

The ALAN Review

by Patricia Kelly and Robert Small [Published three times/year: Radford University Press]

This journal contains articles and reviews of interest to young adults. Handy "clip and file" reviews evaluate short stories, nonfiction, and historical fiction. Each review is short and easy to read and includes the name of the reviewer and profession. Published by the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents, National Council of Teachers of English, this journal is highly regarded in reputation and authority. cc: Life Skills

Voice of Youth Advocates

by Cathi Drum Macrae [Published bimonthly: Scarecrow Press]

This journal contains articles on practical programming for young people, as well as reviews of fiction, nonfiction, reference, CD-ROM and professional resources. Reviews also include sections on adult mysteries for teens, nature, history, science fiction, fantasy and horror. Ratings are given as to quality, popularity among young adults and grade level. The journal includes listings of best books for young adults, quick picks for reluctant readers and popular paperbacks. theme: Environment

Women's Voices

by Lorie Jenkins McElroy, Editor [1996: UXL]

Highlights from 32 original documents are used to trace the development of women's rights from the Revolutionary War to the present. Documents include newspaper articles, diaries, speeches, poems and reminiscences. Volume one covers the topics of education, abolition and suffrage, and volume two contains information about property and labor, civic and social equality, and reproductive rights. Brief biographies, black and white photographs and sidebars with definitions of particular words, as well as lists for further reading, enhance the work. Comprised mostly of the words of women such as Sojourner Truth, Eleanor Roosevelt and Susan B. Anthony, the book also includes men who supported the rights of women, such as Frederick Douglas. cc: United States History

Healing the Hate

by Karen A. McLaughlin and Kelly J. Brilliant [1997: Education Development Center Inc. ]

This excellent resource offers ways to teach about hate crimes and discrimination in the classroom. It proved numerous handouts that can be photocopied for classroom use and other ideas to incorporate into lectures. themes: Cross Cultural Understanding, Gangs and Violence cc: Contemporary Social Issues
Youth Resource Manual

The Attorney General's Youth Resource Manual makes asking for help easy. It lists services available in each county for teens, from education and job training to nutrition and child support. For example, if a young person wants to be a court reporter but has no idea how to start, she can look up "Proprietary Schools" under the "Texas Workforce Commission" section to find trade schools in her county and across the state. Or if a teen fears that she has a drinking or drug problem, she can refer to the "Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse" section to learn about substance abuse treatment close to home. The manual helps families as well by including resources for victims of domestic violence or crime. To request a manual, please call the Office of the Attorney General, Juvenile Crime Intervention Unit at (512) 463-4024. theme: Coming of Age, Gangs and Violence, Careers cc: Life Skills

All About Sex: A Family Resource on Sex and Sexuality
by Planned Parenthood [1998: Planned Parenthood Federation of America]

A sex education course for the whole family, this book covers all aspects of sex and sexuality in a sensitive but frank manner. From sexual anatomy and sexual diversity to sexual relationships and family planning, every issue is treated with sensitivity and clarity. This carefully researched volume will be a trusted resource for anyone who seeks a healthy and positive approach to the topic of sex. The book's purpose is to help families establish sexual values and encourage responsible sexual behaviors. theme: Coming of Age cc: Life Skills

Middle and Junior High School Catalog (7th Edition)**
by Anne Price and Juliette Yaakov, Editors [1995: H. W. Wilson]

This catalog is used by middle and junior high school librarians in a variety of areas such as collection maintenance, curriculum support, reader's advisor and purchasing. Titles are arranged by the Dewey Decimal system and include author, title and subject indexes. All titles included in this catalog are recommended. Reviews are taken from reputable journals, and quotes are given for each item. Merits include the convenient arrangement, the broad coverage of areas in both fiction and nonfiction, and the wide range of usage for curriculum and collection development.

The Norton Book of Women's Lives**
by Phyllis Rose, Editor [1993: Norton]

This anthology contains excerpts from 20th Century memoirs, journals, and autobiographies of 61 women, both well-known and lesser known, from around the world. Teachers will be able to connect this particular reading thematically with other authors.

Kliatt: Young Adult Paperback Book Guide
by Claire Rosser, Paula Rohrlick and Jean Palmer, Editors [Published six times/year: Kliatt]

This journal reviews paperback books, both fiction and nonfiction audiobooks, and educational software for young adults. All items reviewed are recommendations. Codes are given to indicate reading level: junior high, senior high and advanced students. Exceptional books are marked with an asterisk. Paperback books reviewed include fiction, science fiction, fantasy, horror, short stories, literature, poetry, biography, health, current topics, history and geography, science, nature, fine arts, crafts and educational guidance. Theme: Environment

Celebrating Women's History: A Women's History Month Resource Book**
by Mary Ellen Snodgrass, Editor [1996: New York]

An excellent resource for teachers and other adults who work with children ages 4-18, this book lists 300 activities. Chapters cover topics such as arts and crafts, business and labor, dance, education, health, history, literature, science and writing. Activities are multi-media and range from games and contests to bulletin boards, instructional programs and individual study. For each activity, the intended age/grade level, a description, procedure, estimate of cost, list of sources and alternative
applications are provided. A class could explore a day in the life of an Inuit woman, or look at how
women are portrayed in advertising, or examine radium (discovered by Marie Curie). Activities are
indexed several ways, including by budget (less than $25 to more than $100) and age level. A
resource appendix lists archives, associations, museums, multi-media suppliers and newsletters. A
reference appendix is also included. The activities described in this book can be used any time of the
year, not just during women's history month. Using the book's handy indexes, teachers can easily
locate activities to fit into their curricula. theme: Cross Cultural Understanding cc: Science and
Math

Instructor's Manual to accompany Literature for Today's Young Adults**
by Elizabeth Wahlquist [1997: Longman]

Wahlquist offers suggestions for instructors teaching literature, including ideas for assignments and
sample exam questions. For each chapter in the text, there is a summary, along with pre-reading
activities for students, discussion questions and supplemental activities. A glossary and collection of
reproducible handouts complete the manual.

Media & Methods
by Christine Weiser, Editor [Published bimonthly: American Society of Editors]

This journal reviews multimedia products, technologies and programs for the K-12 grade levels.
Articles examine the latest ideas and usage of current technology, the Internet, CD-ROM information,
electronic encyclopedias and software. Reviews are conducted by media specialists, librarians,
teachers and principals, and include CD-ROM/software, presentation equipment, video, laserdiscs,
databases and books. cc: Life Skills

Medieval Women Writers
by Katharina M. Wilson, Editor [1984: University of Georgia Press]

Wilson has collected the English translations of the works of women writers through the centuries and
made them available to non-scholars for the first time. cc: World History
Other books by Wilson are: Women Writers of the Renaissance and Reformation, Women Writers of
the Seventeenth Century.

Kickin' Back with the Girls: A Young Woman's Survival Guide
by Young Women's Health Team [1997: Health Initiatives for Youth (hify)]

This collaboratively produced and informally written resource for teenage girls is illustrated with
young women's original art and writings. It addresses a wide range of health issues including an
informative guide to drugs and their side effects and how using drugs can be linked to acquiring
AIDS and STDs. This book is only available by calling 415-487-5777. Call for details. theme:
Coming of Age cc: Contemporary Social Issues, Life Skills
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