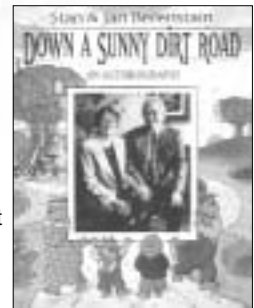


NONFICTION HONOR LIST

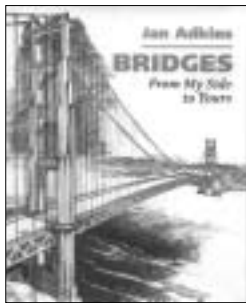


As committee members read more than 200 titles submitted by publishers for this year's list, we noted a broad range of topic areas—military, political, and social history; religious and philosophical thought; scientific and medical endeavors; artistic expression; memoirs and biographical profiles; ancient and contemporary culture; sports; and exploration. We selected thirty-five exceptional titles based on middle school student comments and opinions as well as our own evaluations. From the discovery of a living prehistoric fish and the story of the creators of the "Berenstain Bears" to Civil War songs and battles to tattooing and jump rope, the books represent a cornucopia of subjects useful for curriculum support and reading just for fun.

Nonfiction Honor List books fulfill the following criteria:

- Are suitable for middle school/junior high school readers in grades six to eight.
- Address curricular needs or personal reading interests.
- Were published in 2002 and early 2003.
- Were nominated for consideration by the publisher.
- Contain some element that raises them above other books on the topic. Unique research, creative presentation, inventive use of photography or illustrations, and filling a topic niche in the middle level were considered in compiling our final list.

Adkins, Jan. **Bridges: From My Side to Yours.** Roaring Brook, 2002. 96p. \$18.95. 0-7613-1542-X. PLB \$25.90. 0-7613-2510-7. Glossary. Index. Illus. [VOYA August 2002, p. 205. **4Q 3P M J**]

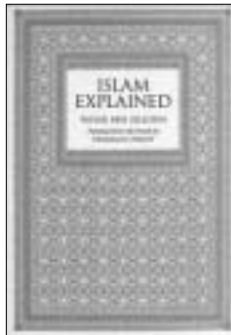


Adkins's play on words accurately reflects the big picture of bridge building through the ages, from stepping-stones on one side of history to reinforced concrete on the other. Arielle (6th Grade), simply declared, "It was good."

Ben Jelloun, Tahar. **Islam Explained.**

Trans. by Franklin Philip. New Press, 2002. 120p. \$19.95. 1-56584-781-4. Index.

This small book not only discusses the history of Islam, but also explains with compassion and sensitivity Muslim beliefs to a contemporary society.



Berenstain, Stan and Jan. **Down a Sunny Dirt Road: An Autobiography.** Random House, 2002. 202p. \$20. 0-375-81403-5. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Chronology.

Teens who grew up as fans of the Berenstain Bears will be fascinated by the stories of art school, war, and cartooning in the couple's dual autobiography.

Brown, Harriet. **Welcome to Kit's World, 1934: Growing Up During America's Great Depression.** Pleasant Company, 2002.



60p. \$16.95. 1-58485-359-X. Illus. Photos. *Here is an interesting introduction to everyday life during the Great Depression as told by Kit from the American Girls series, complete with photos and special-interest side boxes. Theresa (6th Grade) "really enjoyed this book."*

PUBLISHERS: How to Nominate Your Books for VOYA's Next Nonfiction Honor List

If your 2003 publications for middle/junior high school readers fulfill the criteria in this list's introduction, you may nominate your qualified titles. Please note that the minimum grade level interest is grade six.

1. Select your finest publications; you are limited to five titles from each imprint.
2. Send six copies of each nominated book to our committee, addressed to **VOYA** Nonfiction Honor List, c/o Victor L. Schill, Harris County Public Library, 7122 North Gessner, Houston, TX 77040. **Please note procedure change.** Books are now shipped to our chair, not the **VOYA** office.
3. Be sure that we receive your books as early as possible but no later than **January 31, 2004.**
4. Winning selections will be featured in the next edition of the Nonfiction Honor List, an annotated bibliography in the August 2004 issue of **VOYA.**
5. Refer procedural questions to **VOYA** Review Editor Linda Benson at 4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200, Lanham, MD 20706; phone (301) 459-3366, ext. 5702; or e-mail to lbenson@voya.com.

NOTE: Books submitted for the Honor list are not automatically reviewed in **VOYA.** Please send review books to Linda Benson, Review Editor, at **VOYA's** editorial address on our masthead or Web site (below).

Reminder: See our February 2003 issue or our Web site at <http://www.voya.com> for how to nominate your fiction titles for our annual Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers list.

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Chambers, Veronica. **Double Dutch: A Celebration of Jump Rope, Rhyme, and Sisterhood.** Hyperion, 2002. 64p. \$18.99. 0-7868-0512-9. Photos.



The sheer pleasure and sense of community that comes from the practice of this sport is exuberantly conveyed in action photographs, side boxes of rhymes and quotes, and personal reminiscences. Katherine (6th Grade) "liked the story about the girls and the illustrations."

Colman, Penny. **Where the Action Was: Women Correspondents in World War II.** Crown, 2002. 118p. \$17.95. 0-517-80075-6. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Biblio.

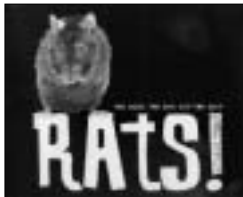
Colman creates an informative and interesting book that describes women correspondents, the obstacles they faced, the dangers they encountered, and their accomplishments.



Conniff, Richard. **Rats! The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.** Crown, 2002. 37p. \$15.95. 0-375-81207-5. Index. Photos.

Replete with color photographs, endpapers teaming with rats, and contemporary page layouts, this book presents numerous facts and anecdotes about rats, from their role in history to their place as pets. Theresa (6th Grade) thought the book was "scary!" and Skye (6th Grade) said,

"I think it has lots of info about rats."



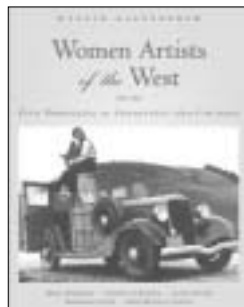
Cooper, Michael L. **Remembering Manzanar: Life in a Japanese Relocation Camp.** Clarion, 2002. 68p. \$15. 0-618-06778-7. Index. Illus. Photos. Further Reading.

This timely and compelling book documents the daily life of the Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans interred during World War II at the Manzanar relocation camp in California through their own diaries, journals, memoirs, and news accounts. Livia and Arielle (6th Grade) both observed, "It is sad."



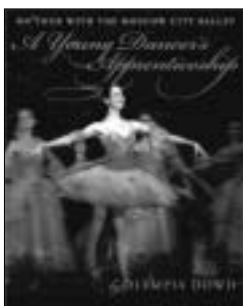
Danneberg, Julie. **Women Artists of the West: Five Portraits in Creativity and Courage.** Fulcrum, 2002. 84p. \$12.95 Trade pb. 1-55591-861-1. Index. Photos. Maps. Biblio.

In a first-person narrative based on facts, places, dates, and events, with visual art and fact side boxes, Danneberg provides biographical profiles of five unconventional women artists whose lives and work were profoundly influenced by the geography and culture of the American West.



Dowd, Olympia. **A Young Dancer's Apprenticeship: On Tour with the Moscow Ballet.** Twenty-First Century, 2002. 126p. PLB \$24.90. 0-7613-2917-X. \$14.95 Trade pb. 0-7613-1898-4. Glossary. Photos.

Perfect for young adults dreaming of a big career break, Dowd's narrative tells her own dream-come-true experience as a typical teen who earned a spot as an apprentice with the Moscow City Ballet.



Finlayson, Reggie. **We Shall Overcome: The History of the American Civil Rights Movement.**

Lerner, 2003. 96p. PLB \$25.26. 0-8225-0647-5. Index. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Chronology. Further Reading.

Focused on the events of the 1950s and 1960s, this brief but powerful overview in the People's History series profiles the leaders and major occurrences of this movement and is packed with photographs that convey the passion of the era.



Freedman, Russell. **Confucius: The Golden Rule.** Illus. by Frédéric Clément. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2002. 48p. \$15.95. 0-439-13957-0. Illus. Source Notes. Further Reading.

This beautifully illustrated book traces the life and teachings of this famous philosopher, showing how his thoughts are still a great influence on society.



Gay, Kathlyn, and Christine Whittington. **Body Marks: Tattooing, Piercing, and Scarification.**

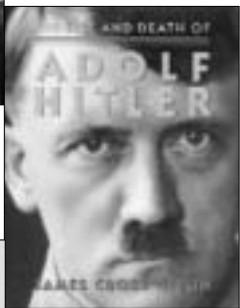
Twenty-First Century, 2002. 112p. PLB \$29.90. 0-7613-2352-X. \$14.95 Trade pb. 0-7613-1742-2. Index. Photos. Source Notes. Further Reading.

Without sensationalizing, the authors present an overview of the history of body decorations and modifications with plenty of photos, information about health risks, and how the practices both separate and unite cultures and generations.



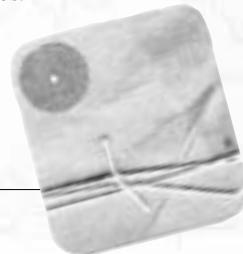
Giblin, James Cross. **The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler.** Clarion, 2002. 246p. \$21. 0-395-90371-8. Glossary. Index. Illus. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. [VOYA June 2002, p. 134. 4Q 4P MJS]

Period photos and political cartoons enhance this well-researched, balanced assessment of the life of Hitler, emphasizing his formative years and early political career and including an examination of how his influence lives on in the various neo-Nazi movements around the world.



Hyde, Margaret O. and Elizabeth H. Forsyth. **Depression: What You Need to Know.** Franklin Watts, 2002.

112p. \$24. 0-531-11892-4. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Source Notes. Further Reading. *The increasing recognition of depression in adolescents adds special value to this in-depth resource that addresses not only the causes, symptoms, and treatments of the disease and recommends coping actions, but also explains how teens can recognize the warning signs of depression in themselves and friends.*

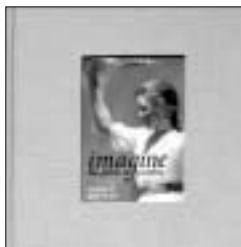




Imagine the Girl in the Painting: Stories of Girls in Art. Pleasant Company, 2002. 48p.

\$14.95. 1-58485-578-9. Illus. Appendix.

This collection of paintings of girls with accompanying short stories invites the reader to experience the art fully by using her imagination to place herself in the artwork. "This is definitely a different book," proclaimed Lucia (6th Grade). "It has famous drawings along with information about them. The writing style is meant for children," and she deemed the information "true, yet heartwarming."

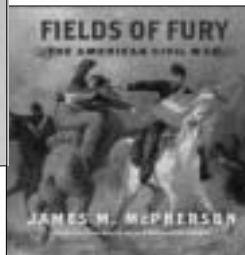


McPherson, James. M. **Fields of Fury: The American Civil War.**

Atheneum/S & S, 2002. 96p.

\$22.95. 0-689-84833-1. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Chronology.

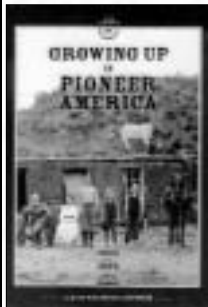
This scholarly and compelling narrative of the profound impact of the campaigns and battles of the Civil War on the North and South is recounted through historical profiles of leaders, personal anecdotes from soldiers and civilians, period photographs and oil paintings, and maps.



Josephson, Judith Pinkerton. **Growing Up in Pioneer America, 1800 to 1890.** Lerner, 2003. 64p.

PLB \$26.60. 0-8225-0659-9. Index. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading.

The pioneer life of children as their families moved to settle the West is shown in photographs and told through diaries, letters, and sidebars of interesting information.



Meltzer, Milton. **Ten Kings and the Worlds They Ruled.** Illus. by Bethanne Andersen. Orchard, 2002. 132p.

\$21.95. 0-439-31293-0. Index. Illus. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes.

*In the author's appealing tone, this beautifully detailed companion to **Ten Queens** (Dutton, 1998/**VOYA** April 1999) describes ten male rulers, their quest for power, and how their worlds were changed. Priya (6th Grade) decided that the book contained "very good and interesting information."*



Jovinelly, Joann, and Jason Netelkos. **Crafts of the Ancient World** series. Rosen, 2002. 48p.

\$29.25. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Further Reading. Chronology. [**VOYA** June 2002, p. 137. **2Q 4P M**]

- The Crafts and Culture of the Aztecs.** 0-8239-3512-4.
- The Crafts and Culture of the Ancient Egyptians.** 0-8239-3509-4.
- The Crafts and Culture of the Ancient Greeks.** 0-8239-3510-8.
- The Crafts and Culture of the Ancient Hebrews.** 0-8239-3511-6.
- The Crafts and Culture of the Romans.** 0-8239-3513-2.
- The Crafts and Culture of the Vikings.** 0-8239-3514-0.

The daily life, beliefs, warfare, language, and art of six ancient civilizations are brought to life for young readers in this series that enhances the informational text with complementary craft activities. Livia (6th Grade) felt that the series "explained the way of making the crafts very well," and Maggie (6th Grade) thought, "It would be interesting to do all the crafts."

Nixon, Joan Lowery. **The Making of a Writer.** Delacorte, 2002.

97p. \$14.95. 0-385-73000-4. Photos. [**VOYA** August 2002, p. 210. **5Q 4P M J**]

Young, aspiring writers as well as interested readers can solve the mystery of why and how young adult mystery novelist Nixon became a writer by reading this charming memoir that recalls the youthful experiences that shaped her writing skills and style and also provides her "Top Ten Writing Tips."

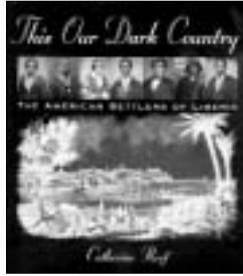


Reef, Catherine. **This Our Dark Country: The American Settlers of Liberia.**

Clarion, 2002. 136p. \$17.

0-618-14785-3. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. [**VOYA** June 2002, p. 160. **4Q 4P M J**]

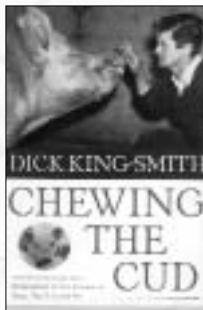
Abundant photographs, drawings, and quotes fill this well-researched book about the establishment of Liberia, a colony for free blacks and former slaves.



King-Smith, Dick. **Chewing the Cud.** Illus. by Harry Horse. Knopf, 2002. 196p. \$16.95.

0-375-81459-0. Illus. Photos.

In his insightful and candid memoir, King-Smith recounts how his careers as a soldier, a farmer, a salesman, a factory worker, and a teacher provided him with a collection of experiences and a varied cast of human and animal characters that inspire his writing.



Sidman, Joyce. **Eureka! Poems About Inventors.** Illus. by K. Bennett Chavez. Millbrook, 2002. 48p.

PLB \$24.90. 0-7613-1665-5. Illus.

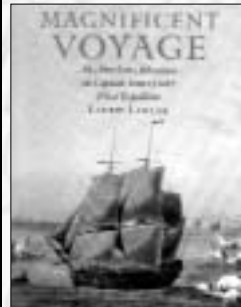
In a poetic chronology, Sidman commemorates some of the world's most important inventors and their valuable contributions, from clay pots to the World Wide Web. Arielle (6th Grade) said, "I love poetry and I think it is a wonderful book," and Maggie (6th Grade) called it "creative and original."

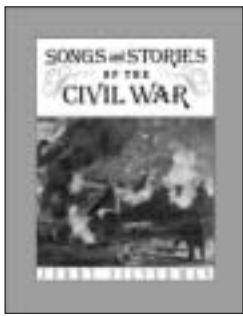


Lawlor, Laurie. **Magnificent Voyage: An American Adventurer on Captain James Cook's Final Voyage.** Holiday House, 2002. 236p.

\$22.95. 0-8234-1575-9. Glossary. Index. Illus. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology. Appendix. [**VOYA** April 2003, p. 73. **4Q 4P M J S**]

Based on the writings of John Ledyard, who sailed with Captain Cook, this fascinating biography reveals not only the events of Cook's final voyage but also typical life aboard ship in the late 1700s and the consequences of colonial expansion on native peoples.





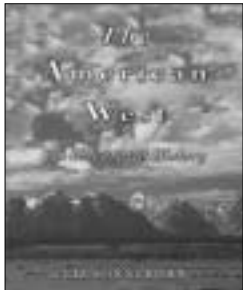
Silverman, Jerry. **Songs and Stories of the Civil War**. Twenty-First Century, 2002. 96p. PLB \$29.90. 0-7613-2305-8. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Source Notes. Further Reading. *This songbook/history lesson preserves the rich musical legacy of twelve songs and ballads inspired by the Civil War through the historical narrative of their composition as well as their words and music.*

Sobey, Ed. **How to Build Your Own Prize-Winning Robot**. Enslow, 2002. 128p. PLB \$20.95. 0-7660-1627-7. Index. Photos. Illus. Further Reading. Appendix.



Fans of Robot Wars and science fair enthusiasts are served well by this clearly written handbook about the materials and process of creating a robot, with information about robotics projects, vendors, clubs, and organizations.

Sonneborn, Liz. **The American West: An Illustrated History**. Scholastic, 2002. 144p. \$19.95. 0-439-21970-1. Index. Photos. Further Reading.



Students are transported to a different time and place through photographs, drawings, and stories of the many people who helped shape the history of the American West.

Sullivan, Anne Marie. **Albert Einstein**. Illus. by Giuliano Ferri. Mason Crest, 2003. 32p. \$19.95. 1-59084-140-9. Illus.

This slim volume, filled with whimsical illustrations, quotes, and valuable information about the life and scientific contributions of Einstein, will entice even the reluctant reader. Lucia (6th Grade) "loved the colors of the drawings that mostly [used] dark colors. The information was fun and interesting, and the style of writing was different." Nina (5th Grade) decided that "this book was very educational and fun and amazing."

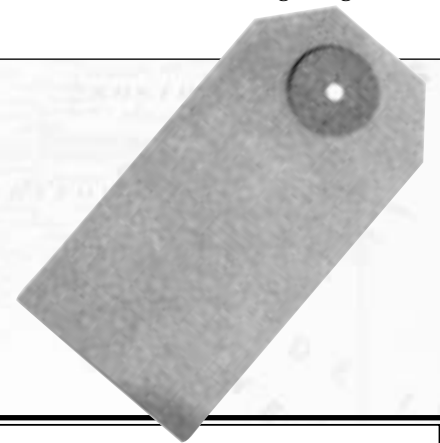
Walker, Sally M. **Fossil Fish Found Alive: Discovering the Coelacanth**. Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, 2002. 72p. \$17.95. 1-57505-536-8. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Chronology. Source Notes.



Written like a mystery novel, this book recounts the 1938 discovery of the coelacanth, a fish thought to be extinct, and the research that followed this tremendous find. Ann (6th Grade) declared, "This is so cool. A fish so big, and with different features is a cool thing to read about."

Books Championed by Middle School Readers

Student readers at the Duchesne Academy in Houston, Texas, championed three titles ultimately not included on this year's list: **Frida** by Jonah Winter, **Mad Cow Disease** by Tom Ridgway, and **When Marian Sang** by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Lucia (6th Grade) endorsed **Frida** because she "loved the different style of illustrations. This book is very informative but sometimes not very well organized." While defending the book for this middle school list, Amanda (6th Grade) also thought it "would be a good read and inspiration to children ages two to eight." Mary (6th Grade) found it "creative," and Maggie decided it had "colorful and imaginative drawings." Voicing her support of **When Marian Sang**, Sophia felt the book had "lovely pictures [and] the story was well written." Lucia summed up her feelings about this book: "This was an outstanding book about courage, dreams, and determination. I loved the people's faces . . . and the story itself." Ann (6th Grade) felt it was a "sad book in the beginning, but [it] ends up happy."



Members of the Nonfiction Honor List Committee 2002

- **Sara Catherine Howard** is the school library media specialist at Wells Middle School in Houston, Texas. She also teaches courses in children's and young adult literature in the Department of Library Science at Sam Houston State University on an adjunct basis.
- **Marilyn Melton** is the eighth grade English teacher at the Village School in Houston, Texas, where she brings twenty-five years of teaching experience to her reading/writing workshops. She also is a New Jersey Writing Project in Texas trainer and a consultant for Prentice Hall.
- **Lana Miles** is the Middle School Librarian at Duchesne Academy in Houston, Texas, where she uses her experience on reading list committees and as a reviewer for **School Library Journal** to promote good books for young readers.

- **Darla J. Staples** teaches French and Spanish and chairs the foreign language department at Landrum Middle School in Houston, Texas. She promotes books to her students and includes time in her classes for her to read aloud. Also, she has collected Cher memorabilia for the past thirty-five years.

- Committee Chair **Victor L. Schill** is the Assistant Branch/Children's Librarian at Fairbanks Branch Library of the Harris County Public Library in Texas. Victor brings to his role as committee chair his experience on reading list committees for the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) of ALA and the Young Adult Round Table (YART) of the Texas Library Association, as well as his love of storytelling.