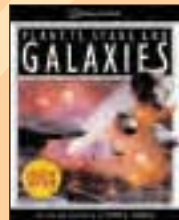


Nonfiction ★ Honor List ★

2007

This year's 250 submissions reflected a season of opposites, with many books delving into the past and others looking to the global future. Some explored the wonders of science while others celebrated the beauty of art and poetry. Humor balanced out books of sorrow. It was a difficult task to narrow the incredible field down to our thirty favorites, but after minimal bloodshed, the selection committee pared and whittled the list to give VOYA readers the best of the best, terrific examples of what happens when incredible graphics and design meld with stellar writing and innovative ideas. As committee chair, my sincere gratitude goes to all on the committee who burned the midnight oil reviewing, discussing, and evaluating the fine points of the nominees, a labor of love for us all. We also thank our young adult patrons and students who helped us see the books through their eyes.—Kevin Beach.

Aguilar, David A. **Planets, Stars, and Galaxies:**



A Visual Encyclopedia of Our Universe. National Geographic, 2007. 191p. \$24.95. 978-1-4263-0170-4. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Further Reading. Chronology. VOYA April 2008. 4Q 4P M J

Astronomy lovers as well as casual readers will be drawn to this volume that begins with the basics of the Big Bang and includes newly noted dwarf-planets, asteroid belts, and the mysterious comet-forming Oort Cloud while explaining the various classifications of stars, black holes, and the future of space travel, with NASA photography and vividly colorful digital art to draw in the reader.

Ball, Heather. **Astonishing Women Artists.**



Women's Hall of Fame series. Second Story Press, 2007. 120p. \$10.95 Trade pb. 978-1-897187-23-4. Illus. Photos. Source Notes. Ten adventurous artists from Artemisia Gentileschi in the Renaissance period to contemporary urban artist Faith Ringgold are highlighted in brief, readable biographies that focus upon their pioneering, daring spirit, and talent.

Bolden, Tonya. **M. L. K.: Journey of a King.** Harry N. Abrams, 2007. 128p. \$19.95. 978-0-8109-5476-2. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology. VOYA April 2007. 5Q 2P M J

With inspiring quotes, historical photographs, and a comprehensive time line, Bolden's account of Dr. King's legacy in the civil rights movement is well-researched, sharp, user-friendly, and distinct.



Nonfiction Honor List Books Meet the Following Criteria

- Suitable for middle school/junior high readers in grades six through eight
- Address curricular needs or personal reading interests
- Were published in 2007
- Contain some element(s) that raise them above other books on the same topic, such as unique research, creative presentation, inventive use of illustrations or photography, or filling a niche at the middle level

Burns, Loree Griffin. **Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam and the**



Science of Ocean Motion. *Scientists in the Field* series. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. 58p. \$18. 978-0-618-58131-3. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Charts. Biblio. Further Reading. VOYA February 2007. 5Q 5P M J S

With vivid photographs and maps, this unique book follows the exploits of oceanographer Curt Ebbesmeyer, who follows oil and cargo spills to discover where the current takes them and to examine the effects of dumped garbage on the shores and the oceans of the world.

Crisler, Curtis L. **Tough Boy Sonatas.** Illus. by Floyd Cooper. Front Street/Boyd's Mills, 2007. 86p. \$19.95. 978-1-932425-77-2. Illus. VOYA August 2007. 5Q 2P S A/YA



Using the inspiration of Gary, Indiana, as his backdrop, Curtis paints a portrait of its young men, represented through the rhythms of his poems with bittersweet, sometimes rambling dissertations on life, dramatically and powerfully illustrated by Cooper's art.

Dear Author: **Letters of Hope.** Joan F. Kaywell, Ed.

Philomel, 2007. 222p. \$14.99. 978-0-399-23705-8. VOYA June 2007. 4Q 3P M J S

A single letter or a series of correspondences provides intimate, heart-warming, inspirational experiences that show just how on target YA authors are in responding to the needs of their fans and how their books touch young lives, displaying an openness and frankness not always found in teen/adult relationships.




Denega, Danielle. **Gut-Eating**

Bugs: Maggots Reveal the Time of Death! *24/7 Science Behind the Scenes Forensic Files* series. Franklin Watts, 2007. 64p. PLB \$26. 978-0-531-11824-5. Glossary. Index. Photos. Biblio.

Through colorful photos, three true-life cases, and scientific data, this book explores what it is like to be a forensic entomologist, fascinating CSI fans and those interested in insects with the evidence provided by these tiny crime-fighting creatures.



Evans, Kate. **Weird Weather: Everything You Didn't Want to Know About Climate Change But Probably Should Find Out.** Groundwood/Douglas & McIntyre, 2007. 96p. \$15.95. 978-0-88899-838-5. Index. Illus. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. VOYA February 2008. 4Q 2P J S 

This humorous but factual look at global warming is enhanced by its graphic novel format in which an angst-ridden teen questions a

VOYA booklists are reproducible without permission for library, classroom, and workshop use. Reprinting in any medium for sale by a commercial or nonprofit entity or posting on the Internet requires written permission from the publisher.

scientist and a corporate fat cat about the future of the planet to provide accessible and entertaining information about carbon footprints and the socio-economic issues the world is already addressing in the twenty-first century.



Farndon, John. **Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best-Kept Secrets.** DK, 2007. 192p. \$24.99. 978-0-756-63205-2. Glossary. Index. Illus.

This amazing, vividly colorful encyclopedia of all things interesting, spooky, mysterious, or just plain weird covers everything from the history of the Bermuda Triangle and how satellites work to vampire versus werewolf, using fold-out pages, modern animation styles, and mixed media art to

lock in the reader's attention, which is first grabbed by a clever cover.

Freedman, Russell. **Who Was First? Discovering the Americas.** Illus. by Kayley LeFaiver. Clarion, 2007. 88p. \$19. 978-0-618-66391-0. Index. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. VOYA December 2007. 5Q 2P M J

Could African seamen or giant treasure ships from China have possibly reached the American shores long before Columbus? This thorough, intriguing, and well-illustrated history lesson from a Newbery Medal-winner presents evidence that ancient man migrated from Siberia more than twenty thousand years ago, and Polynesian ventures and Viking forays also may have preceded that famous voyage of 1492.



Garden, Nancy. **Hear Us Out! Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress, and Hope, 1950 to the Present.** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007. 230p. \$18. 978-0-374-31759-1. Biblio. VOYA April 2007. 4Q 4P M J S

It is often difficult to know what it would have been like to grow up in different eras, but these personal and illustrative stories of young

people discovering and coming to terms with their sexual identity in context of each decade from the 1950s to the present give today's teens a sense of history and the chance to walk in the shoes of previous generations.



Gorrell, Gena K. **In the Land of the Jaguar: South America and Its People.** Illus. by Andrej Krystoforski. Tundra, 2007. 149p. \$22.95. 978-0-88776-756-2. Index. Illus. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes.

Through Gorrell's appealing narrative and relevant sidebars and Krystoforski's vivid maps and artwork, the flavors, colors, nature, and artwork of South America come alive in this book with lush, colorful illustrations, intriguing facts, and well-chosen historical background.

Gourley, Catherine. **Rosie and Mrs. America: Perceptions of Women in the 1930s and 1940s.** Images and Issues of Women in the Twentieth Century series. Twenty-First Century/Lerner, 2007. 144p. PLB \$38.60. 978-0-8225-6804-9. Index. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading.



Modern-day, media-savvy teens will enjoy this eye-opening and readable look at the roles of women in the 1930s and 1940s as represented through period advertisements, movie posters, newspaper articles, and photographs that highlight politics, censorship, and stories of women entering the work force.

Gourse, Leslie. **Sophisticated Ladies: The Great Women of Jazz.** Illus. by Martin French. Dutton, 2007. 64p. \$19.99. 978-0-525-47198-1. Illus. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. Discography. VOYA June 2007. 4Q 2P M J

From Bessie Smith to Cassandra Wilson and Diana Krall, concise biographies accompanied by expressive, lively, and compelling illustrations profile these extraordinary, master blues and gospel singers who helped to create and redefine jazz, a unique American art form, tracing their lives and careers and bringing them vividly to life.



PUBLISHERS: HOW TO NOMINATE YOUR BOOKS FOR VOYA'S NEXT NONFICTION HONOR LIST

If your 2008 publications for middle/junior high school readers fulfill the criteria in this list's introduction, you may nominate 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 Selection Committee, c/o Stacey Hayman, Rocky River Public Library, 1600 Hampton Road, Rocky River, OH 44116**

Please note: Books are shipped to our chairperson and not to the VOYA office.

3. Be sure that we receive your books as early as possible but no later than **January 31, 2009**.
4. Winning selections will be featured in the next edition of the Nonfiction Honor List, an annotated bibliography in the August 2009 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 copies to Linda Benson, at VOYA's editorial address.

Reminder: See our February 2008 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.

Greenwood, Barbara. **Factory Girl.** Kids Can Press, 2007. 136p. \$18.95. 978-1-55337-648-4. Glossary. Index. Photos. Chronology.



In a rich book that is enhanced by historical facts, photographs, and descriptions of the times, the story of child labor and the daily dangers for underage workers in the garment district in the early twentieth century is vividly rendered through the life of twelve-year-old Emily, forced by family financial hardship to leave school and find a job in a factory.

Hill, Laban Carrick. **America Dreaming: How Youth Changed America in the 60s.** Little, Brown, 2007. 165p. \$19.99. 978-0-316-00904-1. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Chronology. VOYA December 2007. 5Q 4P M J S



More a history of Baby Boomers than the sixties, this colorful book uses first-person narrative, archival photographs, and bright bold text that grabs the reader's attention to coverage of the civil rights movement, Black Nationalism, the feminist movement, Latino rights, and the emerging gay pride movement in a nonjudgmental, upfront manner that allows readers to form their own opinions.

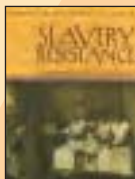
Horne, Richard, and Tracey Turner. **101 Things You Need To Know . . . And Some You Don't!** Walker, 2007. 208p. \$9.95 Trade pb. 978-0-8027-9674-5. Illus. VOYA October 2007. 3Q 4P M J S



This small, browsable book is full of survival tips, such as how to escape quicksand or an avalanche, but it also investigates those nagging questions you never could quite answer, including, "Why is the sky blue?" or "How will the world eventually end?" with activity pages for

every topic and irresistible content that ranges from gross, fun, and trivial to important lessons in survival savvy.

Jordan, Anne Devereaux, and Virginia Schomp. **Slavery and Resistance.** Drama of African American History series. Benchmark/ Marshall Cavendish, 2007. 70p. PLB \$34.21. 978-0-7614-2178-8. Glossary. Index. Illus. Biblio. Further Reading.



This excellent overview covers the institution of slavery in America from the Colonial era through the creation of the plantation system and a brief history of slave revolts through poignant firsthand narratives, archival photographs, and historic illustrations that accompany the accessible, appealing, and easy-to-read style.

Krensky, Stephen. **Comic Book Century: The History of American Comic Books.** People's History series. Twenty-First Century/Lerner, 2007. 112p. PLB \$30.60. 978-0-8225-6654-0. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. Chronology. VOYA December 2007. 3Q 3P M J



Examining the evolving comic book in its various forms against each decade's historical events, this surprisingly thorough book packed with terrific illustrations and excerpts highlights America's love-hate relationship with comic books, from the rise of Superman and Batman in the late 1930s through the creation of the Comics Code Authority, the underground publications of the 1960s, and the recent graphic novel explosion.

Orndorff, John C., and Suzanne Harper. **Terrorists, Tornados, and Tsunamis: How to Prepare for Life's Danger Zones.** Illus. by Joana Pena. Harry N. Abrams, 2007. 144p. \$16.95. 978-0-8109-5767-1. Index. Illus. Further Reading. VOYA April 2007. 4Q 4P M J

This book offers practical information on dealing with life's dangerous and unexpected events, offering briefing notes, a stay-safe guide, and

illustrations explaining how to survive a myriad of disasters from terrorism to hurricanes, with information to help one stay safe before, during, and after each catastrophe.



Orr, Tamra B. **When the Mirror Lies: Anorexia, Bulimia, and Other Eating Disorders.** Franklin Watts, 2007. 144 p. PLB \$30.50. 978-0-531-16791-5. Glossary. Index. Source Notes. VOYA December 2006. 4Q 4P J S



Using several heart-wrenching, true stories, this book highlights the different types of disorders, their warning signs, the dangerous physical and psychological side effects, and treatment options, exploring body image and self perception—both often skewed by the media—and refuting common fallacies through facts and statistics.

Pardes, Bronwen. **Doing It Right: Making Smart, Safe, and Satisfying Choices About Sex.** Simon Pulse/S & S, 2007. 160p. \$14.99 Trade pb. 978-1-4169-1823-3. Index. Illus. Further Reading. VOYA April 2007. 4Q 5P S



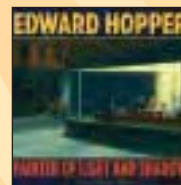
The essential topic of sexuality, primary to every adolescent mind, is covered in this informative and candid book, clearing up myths using honest language to convey explanations, terminology, and practical suggestions on every topic from reproduction, readiness, and protection to STDs and rape.

Rompella, Natalie. **Famous Firsts: The Trendsetters, Groundbreakers, and Risk-Takers Who Got America Moving!** Lobster Press, 2007. 48p. \$18.95. 978-1-897073-55-1. Glossary. Photos. VOYA October 2007. 3Q 3P M J



With short, punchy paragraphs and a colorful, engaging layout, this appealing brief history highlights the stars of several unconventional American sports, such as Frisbee golf, BMX, trampoline jumping, and dog sledding and provides great browsing for reluctant readers.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. **Edward Hopper: Painter of Light and Shadow.** Harry N. Abrams, 2007. 48p. \$18.95. 978-0-8109-9347-1. Biblio. Source Notes.



This book takes the reader through a beautifully illustrated account of the artist's life with delightful renderings of his colorful paintings, providing fascinating details about his technique, influences from his personal life, and background stories about his artwork's subjects for an inspiring lesson in determination and art appreciation.

Sis, Peter. **The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.**



Frances Foster Books/Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007. 56p. \$18. 978-0-374-34701-7. Illus. Chronology. VOYA December 2007. 4Q 2P M J
In line with the growing trend of biography as image, Sis's phenomenal book combines photographs, journal entries, and illustrations to depict his childhood behind the Iron Curtain, mixing personal events with social and historical commentary while the stark color palette illustrates a world where people were told what to wear, what to draw, what to think, and how to live . . . and rebelled.

Spitz, Bob. **Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! The Beatles, Beatlemania, and the Music That Changed the World.** Little, Brown, 2007. 240p. \$18.99. 978-0-316-11555-1. Index. Photos. Biblio. Discography. VOYA December 2007. 4Q 3P J S

Using evocative photos, informative sidebars, and intriguing examples, this expressive, straightforward biography engages teen

readers immediately, from the first meeting between a sixteen-year-old John Lennon and a fifteen-year-old Paul McCartney, comprehensively illustrating the huge impact the ground-breaking Beatles had upon their generation, from their hairstyles to their music.



Sturm, James. **Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim**



Crow. Illus. by Rich Tommaso. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion/DBG, 2007. 89p. \$16.99. 978-0-7868-3900-1. Illus. VOYA April 2008. 4Q 4P MJS

Simplistic but effective sepia-toned graphics and vernacular speech bring this story of race relations and baseball to life, conveying the character of Satchel Paige and the hope he brought to people, providing interesting supplemental reading about a great ballplayer and the segregation era.

Tsunamis and Seiches. Library of Natural Disasters series. World Book Staff, Eds. World Book, 2007. 48p. \$21.99. 978-0-7166-9814-2. Glossary. Index. Photos. Further Reading.

This colorful and attractive book explains the science behind two water phenomena, one very much in the news and the other a rarer natural disaster, exploring Tsunamis in relation to other destructive forces such as earthquakes, landslides, and volcanoes and describing Seiches, destructive waves which occur in lakes and inland seas, in clear, easy text enhanced by interesting diagrams and illustrations.

Walker, Richard. **How the Incredible Human**

Body Works by the Brainwaves. Illus. by Lisa Swerling and Ralph Lazar. DK, 2007. 61p. \$19.99. 978-0-7566-3145-1. Index. Illus.

Take a fun, fast, and insightfully wild tour of the human body guided by the "Brainwaves," breaking up the human body by system and using bold, colorful illustrations—many with fold-out pages that enable the reader to see the whole system at once—to delight younger teens with pun-heavy humor and an easily digestible, nonlinear approach to the topic.



Woodford, Chris, and Jon Woodcock. **Cool Stuff 2.0: And How It Works.** DK, 2007. \$24.99 256p. 978-0-7566-3207-6. Glossary. Index. Photos.

Through text that is amplified by DK's usual astounding photos, find out about everyday gadgets and futuristic devices that are already a part of people's lives in other countries—dry shampoo, high-tech toilets, floating beds, and much more.



OUR TEENS SPEAK OUT

101 Things You Need To Know . . . And Some You Don't!

"Good for finding out interesting things about the human body, animals, historic events, cultures and the earth. Fascinating."—Nicole, 10th grade.

Cool Stuff 2.0: And How It Works

"The cover and inside photographs are very intriguing."—J. P. M., 11th grade.

Dear Author: Letters of Hope

"An inspirational project coordinated by a Florida professor who demonstrates the power of the printed word to reach others."

—Nicole, 10th grade.

Factory Girl

"Half fiction, half nonfiction. I enjoyed the fiction story of the girl, making the nonfiction information more interesting. The pictures were sad and powerful."—Nicole, 10th grade.

Famous Firsts: The Trendsetters, Groundbreakers, and Risk-Takers Who Got America Moving!

"Diverse, fun, unique, inspiring."—Andy T., 9th Grade.

"I loved reading this book; just the outside pictures and the title made the book seem so cool."—Brittany W., 10th Grade.

Hear Us Out

"A helpful and interesting way to learn more about people with a different orientation and to be more accepting of them."—Nicole, 10th grade.

M. L. K.: Journey of a King

"This book is historical, educational, inspiring, and a good biography. It's for mature readers."—Andy T., 9th Grade.

"I personally [loved reading] this book because he was a hero and teenagers like to read about their heroes."—Brittany W., 10th Grade.

Rosie and Mrs. America: Perceptions of Women in the 1930s and 1940s

"I liked the story of women's rights and especially liked the photos."—Nicole, 10th grade.

Terrorists, Tornados, and Tsunamis: How to Prepare for Life's Danger Zones

"It has a lot of information that can save you a lot of trouble and even your life. There should be a copy of this book in every home!"—Brian M., 9th grade.

Tough Boy Sonatas

"This book is for mature readers. I think it's awesome and unique."—Andy T., 9th Grade.

Tracking Trash

"This series teaches a lot about the environment. It's adventurous and exciting."—Andy T., 9th Grade.

"[This book is] very educational [and] can teach a lot about endangered animals and habitats, can be read with family."—Brittany W., 10th Grade.

Meet the Members of the Nonfiction Honor List 2007 Selection Committee

- Ava Ehde is the manager of the Island Branch Public Library where she has created an innovative and dynamic Young Adult program series. She is also an adjunct professor offering continuing education for the School of Information Studies of SUNY @ Buffalo and a regular contributor to VOYA.
- Linda S. Sell works for the Manatee County Public Library System as the Youth Services Librarian for the Braden River Branch Library in Bradenton, Florida. She has a master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and a bachelor's degree from Adams State College.
- Monica Luoto is Assistant Branch Supervisor of the Island Branch of the Manatee County Public Library and is working to manage a growing teen population and present a creative Young Adult program series.
- Stacy Reyer is a Children's Librarian I for the Manatee County Central Library in Bradenton, Florida. She is an avid reader of graphic novels and YA literature.
- Judy Mullen is a Reference Librarian at the Braden River Branch Library. She has been active in creating the young adult collection and developing teen programs at the branch.
- Committee Chair Kevin Beach is the Collection Development supervisor for the Manatee County Public Library System, located just south of Tampa Bay on the west coast of Florida. He also is an adjunct professor at the Sarasota/Bradenton campus of the University of South Florida in the School of Library and Information Science and has reviewed books for VOYA for more than fifteen years.