



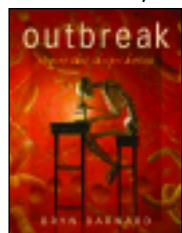
Nonfiction Honor List

NONFICTION HONOR LIST BOOKS MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Are suitable for middle school/junior high readers in grades six to eight
- Address curricular needs or personal reading interests
- Were published in 2005 and early 2006
- 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.

Every year, the committee finds certain trends among the books that they review for selection. This year saw many biographies about Einstein and new additions to the dinosaur canon, including **Encyclopedia Prehistorica** by Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart, which is an excellent book but a problematic choice for libraries with its magnificent pop-up art. Various books provided projects on weaving, knitting, and other handicrafts. A wide range of historical titles explored eras ranging from the ancient world to the Vietnam War. Many books detailed events in American history or described the lives of influential historical figures. Technological innovations and their history remained a strong subject. With bird flu in the news and the continuing AIDS epidemic, we also saw many books about diseases and their effects on society. Some excellent titles are omitted here because they are better suited to catch the interest of older teens. Our finalists' topics ranged from self-help to forensic history, from inspirational biographies to sports narratives, and from primary source series to art books. The committee selected twenty-three books and three titles in a particularly well-done series. All were thought to best meet the educational, recreational, and emotional needs of middle school and junior high students across a wide variety of formats and subjects.

Barnard, Bryn. **Outbreak: Plagues That Changed History.**



Crown, 2005. 47p. \$17.95. 0-375-82986-5. Glossary. Illus. Maps. Source Notes.

Exploring the often unexamined effects that diseases have on human history, this well-researched book includes illustrations by the author and maps that trace the routes that the infections took.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **Hitler Youth:**

Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow. Scholastic, 2005. 176p. \$19.95. 0-439-35379-3. Index. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology. Appendix. VOYA August 2005. 4Q 3P MJS

Including heartwrenching interviews with former members as well as with those forbidden to join, Bartoletti's powerful book traces the rise of the Nazi party, the emergence of the Hitler youth organization, and the inevitable persecution and resistance.



Caputo, Philip. **10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War.** Atheneum/S & S, 2005.



128p. \$22.95. 0-689-86231-8. Glossary. Index. Photo. Biblio. Chronology.

In one readable volume with telling photographs and informative sidebars, Caputo puts together a comprehensive story of the devastating conflict and leaves the reader with an indelible impression of the people, places, and events of the war.

Cole, Sheila. **To Be Young in America:**

Growing Up with the Country, 1776–1940. Little, Brown, 2005. 146p. \$19.99. 0-316-15196-3. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes.

A unique look at the experiences of growing up in America with chapters on everything from love to war, this book offers a variety of illustrations, including photos, and presents a great mosaic of the life of young Americans in the past.



Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt. **We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success.** Dutton, 2005.



194p. \$16.99. 0-525-47407-2. VOYA June 2005. 3Q 3P S A/YA

Enter the toughest streets in New Jersey through the eyes of three young black men who formed a pact and beat the streets to become doctors. With luck, determination, and friendship, they overcame their trials to tell their story, and became role models for success.

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Deem, James M. **Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient**



Pompeii. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 50p. \$16. 0-618-47308-4. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Biblio.

With help from many historical photographs, this outstanding story about the disastrous volcanic eruption of Vesuvius relates the events

of August 24, AD 79, and details the later excavation of the victims in Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Ellis, Deborah. **Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk About AIDS.** Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005. 104p. \$18.95. 1-55041-913-7. Glossary. Index. Maps. Further Reading. VOYA December 2005. 3Q 2P MJ

Interviewed by Ellis, children and teenagers touched by the AIDS epidemic in Africa tell how the disease has affected their families, their health, and their future. The pictures are fuzzy, but the stories are vital.



Fleming, Candace. **Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life.** An Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum/S & S, 2005. 176p. \$19.95. 0-689-86544-9. Index. Photos. Source Notes. Further Reading. VOYA October 2005. 5Q 3P JS



The scrapbook format of this book lends itself to browsing through the photos and anecdotes. Fleming's writing brings the reader to an appreciation of the private and public persona of an extraordinary woman.

Frank, Mitch. **Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions About the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.** Viking, 2005. 152p. \$17.99. 0-670-06032-1. Glossary. Index. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Chronology. VOYA April 2005. 4Q 4P M JS

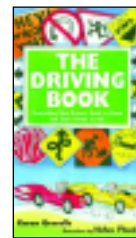
Frank's book clearly explains an issue often confusing for adults, let alone middle school students. Smartly organized around key questions, it helps define the



conflict while remaining balanced and is a great resource for researching and understanding a complex world issue.

Gravelle, Karen. **The Driving Book: Everything New Drivers Need to Know But Don't Know to Ask.** Illus. by Helen Flook. Walker, 2005. 170p. \$16.95. Index. VOYA August 2005. 4Q 5P S

The uniqueness of this book is that it's perfect not only for high school students, but also for interested middle school students, using humorous drawings and anecdotes from young drivers to cover essentials and address teen-specific concerns.



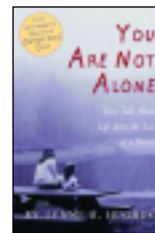
Haab, Sherri, and Michelle. **Dangles and Bangles: 25 Funky Accessories to Make and Wear.** Illus. by Barbara Pollak. Watson-Guption, 2005. 96p. \$9.95 Trade pb. 0-8230-0064-8. Index. Photos. Further Reading. VOYA October 2005. 4Q 4P M JS

This delightful craft book offers easy, basic instructions for 25 inexpensive, fun projects that encourage artistic creativity for the novice.



Hughes, Lynne B. **You Are Not Alone: Teens Talk About Life After the Loss of a Parent.** Scholastic, 2005. 192p. \$16.99. 0-439-58590-2. VOYA December 2005. 3Q 2P M JS

Hughes, the founder of a camp for grieving children who lost her own parents at a young age, presents testimonials from teens and offers practical advice on this often taboo subject.



Ingram, Scott. **Want Fries with That? Obesity and the Supersizing of America.** Franklin Watts, 2005. 128p. \$26. 0-531-16756-9. Glossary. Index. Source Notes. Further Reading.

This timely and well-researched book offers useful facts, statistics, and anecdotes on the cause and effects of obesity in America.



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

If your 2005 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 Committee, Attn: Kevin Beach, Collection Development, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd., Bradenton, FL 34205. **Please note a procedure change: Books are now shipped to our chair and not to the VOYA office.**
3. Be sure that we receive your books as early as possible but no later than **January 31, 2007.**
4. Winning selections will be featured in the next edition of the Nonfiction Honor List, an annotated bibliography, in the August 2007 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, Review Editor, at **VOYA's** editorial address.

Reminder: See our February 2006 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.

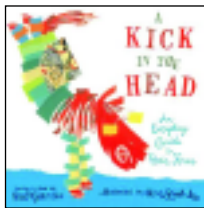
Jackson, Donna M. **ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room.**



Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 88p. \$17. 0-618-43663-4. Glossary. Index. Photos. Source Notes. Further Reading.

This beautifully photographed visit to an animal emergency room captures vets' healing hands and hearts as they care for animals as diverse as dogs, snakes, horses, mice, birds, and cats, performing everything from acupuncture to major surgery.

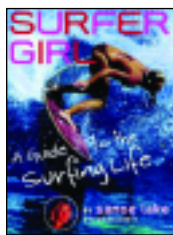
Janeczko, Paul B. **A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms.**



by Chris Raschka. Candlewick, 2005. 61p. \$17.99. 0-7636-0662-6.

A delightful collection of twenty-nine examples, all accompanied by vivid watercolor, ink, and torn-paper illustrations, this book is a joy to read and useful for clarifying poetic forms.

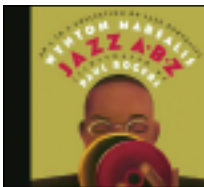
Lake, Sanoe. **Surfer Girl: A Guide to the Surfing Life.**



Little, Brown, 2005. 144p. \$12.99 Trade pb. 0-316-11015-9. Glossary. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Appendix.

Ride the wave with Lake as she explains everything you need to know about the surfing life—from sea hazards to fashion, surf lingo to surfing her story, and selecting a board to catching waves—it's all here!

Marsalis, Wynton. **Jazz A-B-Z: An A to Z Collection of Jazz Portraits.**



by Paul Rogers. Candlewick, 2005. 76p. \$24.99. 0-7636-2135-8.

Twenty-six of jazz music's greats are immortalized in this alphabetically ordered book of alliterative poetry, accompanied by Rogers's poster-like illustrations that bring visual vibrancy to every page. Biographical sketches and descriptions of the poetic forms used are included.

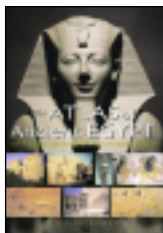
Newquist, H. P. **The Great Brain Book: An Inside Look at the**



Inside of Your Head. Scholastic, 2005. Illus. by Keith Kasnot and Eric Brace. 160p. \$18.95. 0-439-45895-1. Index. Illus. Photos. Further Reading.

Color illustrations, photos, and line drawings help bring all the gory and interesting details of the human brain to life as Newquist examines its function, history, and structure.

Pemberton, Delia. **The Atlas of Ancient Egypt: With Artworks and Photographs from the British Museum.**



Harry N. Abrams, 2005. 96p. \$19.95. 0-8109-5796-5. Glossary. Index. Photos. Maps. Biblio. *Readable text, excellent maps, informative sidebars, and wonderful pictures from the British Museum are sure to engage curious students and make this valuable book a great addition to any ancient Egypt collection.*

Primary Sources in American History series. Rosen, 2005. 64p. \$29.95. Glossary. Illus. Photos. Index. Biblio. Further Reading. Chronology.

This informative and useful series provides primary source visuals and transcriptions along with clear, basic information and time lines on the topics covered.

Flanagan, Timothy. **Reconstruction: A Primary Source History of the Struggle to Unite the North and South After the Civil War.**

1-4042-0177-7. Payment, Simone. **The Pony Express: A Primary Source History of the Race to Bring Mail to the American West.**

1-4042-0181-5. Sonneborn, Liz. **The Mexican-American War: A Primary Source History of the Expansion of the Western Lands of the United States.**

1-4042-0180-7. Sloan, Christopher. **How Dinosaurs Took Flight: Fossils, Science, What We Think We Know, and Mysteries Yet Unsolved.**



National Geographic, 2005. 64p. \$17.95. 0-7922-7298-6. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio.

Exploring the fascinating connection between dinosaurs and birds, Sloan presents a compelling argument with clearly presented hypotheses and evidence, all enhanced by bright, detailed photographs, illustrations, and models.

Sullivan, George. **Built to Last: Building America's Amazing Bridges, Dams, Tunnels, and Skyscrapers.**



Scholastic, 2005. 128p. \$18.99. 0-439-51737-0. Index. Photos. Further Reading. VOYA August 2006. 5Q 3P M J *Framed by beautiful photographs and enhanced by easy to understand diagrams, charts, and sidebars, Sullivan teaches us to marvel at how seventeen of America's most amazing bridges, dams, tunnels, and skyscrapers were designed and constructed.*

Tanaka, Shelley. **Mummies: The Newest, Coolest and Creepiest from Around the World.**



Harry N. Abrams, 2005. 48p. \$16.95. 0-8109-5797-3. Glossary. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Further Reading. Chronology. *In this fascinating and complete look at mummies from around the globe, Tanaka covers the historical and scientific angles in an easily digestible format that will absorb students as they realize that mummies aren't just from Egypt.*

Walker, Sally M. **Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H. L. Hunley.**



Carolrhoda/Lerner, 2005. 112p. \$18.95. 1-57505-830-8. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. VOYA June 2005. 4Q 3P M *Walker presents a well-researched account of the sinking and raising of the H. L. Hunley with photos, illustrations, and primary resources that bring the story to life.*

TEENS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES:

Outbreak: Plagues That Changed History

"I liked **Outbreak** because it was very informative without being hideously dry. And the author also illustrated his book with quality paintings."—Taylor P., 9th grade.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow

"This book shows what it was like to grow up in Germany before the Second World War, and teaches a lot about the Hitler Youth program."—Brian F., 8th Grade.

"This book made me really think about how horrible the situation [experienced by] those young people was. It ignited my interest in reading other World War II material as well."
—Taylor P., 9th grade.

10,000 Days of Thunder

"The illustrations—every other page having a full-color photograph—are great, and the format is very readable."
—Jennifer S., 8th grade.

Bodies from the Ash

"It is really short, but it's full of information about both the actual eruption, burial, and excavations of Pompeii. The pictures and captions are helpful and tastefully done, providing a balance between life back then and the excavations now. It's easy to tell that a lot of effort went into making this book appealing visually."—Jennifer S., 8th grade.

Our Stories, Our Songs

"To not be touched by the stories in this book would be impossible. Emotion will overcome you, but deeper in you'll be strengthened by the courage and strength these children show, who are wise at a level of maturity beyond their years."—Joy B., 11th grade.

The Driving Book: Everything New Drivers Need to Know but Don't Know to Ask

"This book was pretty cool because it explained everything about driving. It explains what to do if you get in trouble; it teaches you what to do on the road."—PJ B., 8th grade.

You Are Not Alone: Teens Talk About Life After the Loss of a Parent

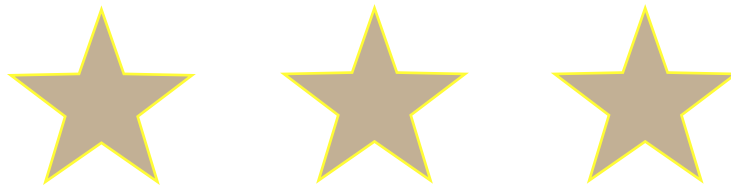
"This book is good for kids who have just lost their parents. The kids in the book talk about their feelings to counselors at a camp and it makes them feel better."—Mohamed D., 8th grade.

Built to Last

"I always knew that I wanted to design buildings, but now I think I want to design bridges and dams, too. This book is the coolest."
—Jack B., 5th grade.

ER Vets

"**ER Vets** is awesome! It showed me how close animals are to humans when they are sick and need help. There should be more emergency rooms for the animals in our country. It made me want to volunteer in a vet hospital and help out."
—Jack B., 5th grade. ■



MEMBERS OF THE NONFICTION HONOR LIST COMMITTEE 2005

- Gladys Fox is the Library Media Specialist at Showalter Middle School, a wonderfully diverse school in Tukwila, Washington. She previously taught Language Arts for twenty years in alternative high schools and has reviewed books for the Washington State Young Adult Materials Review Group (WASHYARG). She is passionate about books, multicultural literature, travel, and movies.
- Michael Galligan has taught middle school for eight years in Tukwila, Washington, and enjoys working with a tremendously diverse population. Michael has a National Board certification in Early Adolescence Language Arts, is a department chair, and coaches three sports. Reading has always been one of his favorite things, and he strives to instill a love of reading in his students.
- Joanne Hughes is a school library media specialist at Auburn Riverside in Auburn, Washington. She has served on district reading curriculum adoption, has led in-service training for district librarians, and has taught at all grade levels. Currently she is facilitating a YA book club, supports student authors, and loves *American Idol*.
- Geri Anne Rohlff is in her twenty-fifth year of teaching English to middle and high school students in Auburn, Washington. In addition, she teaches independent study courses in contemporary adolescent nonfiction for the Heritage Institute. Geri's students write to authors and the responses they have received over the years wallpaper her classroom.
- Brenna Shanks is the Teen Materials Selector for the King County Library System in Washington. She reviews for VOYA and WASHYARG. She is an active YALSA member and works on their Program Clearinghouse committee as well as chairing this VOYA committee.