

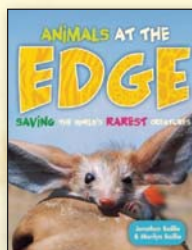
NONFICTION HONOR LIST 2008

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
- Published in 2008
- Contain some element(s) that raise them above other books on the same topic, such as unique research, creative presentation, inventive use of photography, or filling a niche at the middle level

KEEPING OUR FOCUS on middle school teens, this year's committee attempted to include something for everyone. We selected titles that are great educational resources for reports, as well as materials that will entertain those middle school readers looking for extracurricular activities. We also made sure to include books from different reading levels so even reluctant readers will find something to be excited about in this list. The only bad part of this process was trying to narrow the field of 177 books down to 30. We would have loved to expand the list by ten—or more—but we stuck to the rules, and we are proud to reveal these exceptional titles to VOYA readers. A big thank you goes out to the Rocky River Library's teen focus group and to the classroom students who gave us their honest opinions. Another big thank you to the co-workers who made our efforts possible, and my biggest, personal thank you to the committee members who volunteered to share this experience with me.—Stacey Hayman.

Baillie, Jonathan, and Marilyn Baillie. **Animals at the EDGE:**



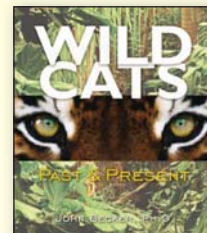
Saving the World's Rarest Creatures. Maple Tree Press, 2008. 46p. \$19.95. 978-1-5973-4932-8. \$9.95 Trade pb. 978-1-8973-4933-5. Glossary. Index. Photos. Maps.

Eleven of the most unique animals in the world are covered in depth with the help of the scientist who is doing the research. Basic information, excellent photos, and a map of where to find these creatures make this book engaging for all ages.

Becker, John E. **Wild Cats: Past and Present.**

Illus. by Mark Hallett. Darby Creek, 2008. 80p. \$18.95. 978-1-58196-052-5. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Appendix. Biblio. VOYA April 2008. 4Q 2P J S

Teens love the "cute" cats, but look closer to find a complete history of feline origins, the state of the current thirty-six wild cat species, how the cats are interrelated, and how to help endangered cats, all of which results in a great educational experience.



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

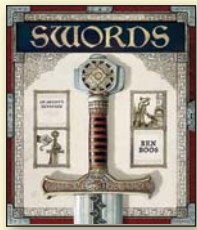
If your 2009 publications for middle/junior high school readers fulfill the criteria in this list's introduction, you may nominate qualified titles. Please note that the minimum grade level interest is grade six.

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 chair, addressed to **VOYA Nonfiction Honor List Selection Committee, c/o Stacey Hayman, Rocky River Public Library, 1600 Hampton Road, Rocky River, OH 44116.**
3. Be sure that we receive your books as early as possible but no later than **January 31, 2010.**
4. Winning selections will be featured in the next edition of the Nonfiction Honor List, an annotated bibliography in the August 2010 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 2009 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.

Boos, Ben. **Swords: An Artist's Devotion.** Candlewick, 2008. 82p. \$24.99. 978-0-7636-3148-2. Illus. Photos. Maps. Charts. Source Notes. Biblio. VOYA April 2009. 4Q 3P M J



The table of contents helps readers navigate through fourteen groups of sword types and the experts who use them. Historical information, sword styles, and fighting techniques are included, but it's the stunning illustrations that mesmerize with even a casual glance.

Cottin, Menena. **The Black Book of Colors.** Trans. by Elisa Amado. Illus. by Rosana Faria. Greenwood, 2008. 24p. \$17.95. 978-0-8889-9873-6. Illus.



Original and thought provoking, this book would provide an excellent start to discussing the senses and how one sense can affect the others. Black pages feature white lettering and embossed black images, with text translated to Braille. The Braille alphabet is included at the back.

Cohn, Lisa, and Debbie Glasser. **The Step-Tween Survival Guide: How to Deal with Life in a Stepfamily.** Illus. by Steve Mark. Free Spirit, 2008. 121p. \$9.95 Trade pb. 978-1-5754-2297-8. Index. Illus. Further Reading.

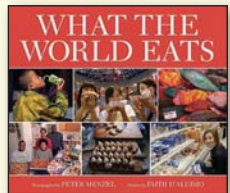


This small book packs a big punch with eleven chapters of real "stepkid" advice, survival tips and tools, know-yourself quizzes, ideas for dealing with tough situations, and methods for feeling closer to new family members.

Crisp, Peter. **One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia.** DK, 2008. 304p. \$24.99. 978-0-7566-3843-6. Index. Illus. Photos. *Divided into eight categories—nature, human body, science and technology, space, Earth, people and places, history, art and culture—this book wisely uses images to attract interest but follows up with concise, informational text.*



D'Aluisio, Faith. **What the World Eats.** Illus. by Peter Menzel. Tricycle Press, 2008. 160p. \$22.99. 978-1-5824-6246-2. Index. Photos. Maps. Charts. Source Notes. Further Reading.



Stunning photos tell the story of what people consume on a weekly basis in twenty-one regions of the world. Facts about the country, cost and quantity of foodstuffs, and one average family's story illustrate how differently humankind lives.

Delano, Marfé Ferguson. **Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher.** National Geographic, 2008. 64p. \$17.95. 978-1-4263-0209-1. Index. Photos. Biblio. Further Reading. Chronology.



This engagingly easy-to-read account of Annie Sullivan's life profiles a woman better known as Helen Keller's teacher. This book finally gives Annie credit for the full, complicated, and inspirational life she truly lived.

Ferguson Publishing. **Space Exploration: Discovering Careers for Your Future.** Ferguson, 2008. 91p. \$21.95. 978-0-8160-7294-1. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Further Reading. *Each of the twenty space exploration career choices discussed provides a job description, education and training, earnings,*

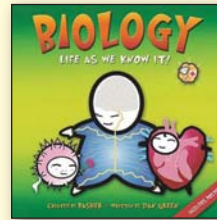
suggestions for how to explore the job as a teen, outlook for future employment, and agencies to contact for more information, comprising an overwhelmingly complete career book.

Gifford, Clive. **10 Explorers Who Changed the World.** Illus. by David Cousens. Kingfisher/Macmillan, 2008. 63p. \$14.95. 978-0-7534-6103-7. Glossary. Index. Maps. Illus.



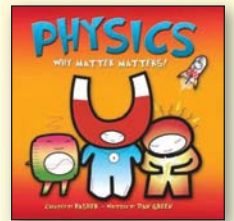
Colorful, graphic novel-style drawings make this offering a favorite with the test teens. It begins with the first explorers, continues to the 1990s, and concludes with brief biographies of five more explorers. The "Life Links" explain how the explorers are progressively connected.

Green, Dan. **Biology: Life As We Know It!** Illus. by Simon Basher. Kingfisher/Macmillan, 2008. 128p. \$8.95 Trade pb. 978-0-7534-6253-9. Glossary. Index. Illus.



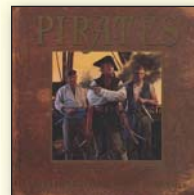
How would you describe teaching biology using simple, anime-style illustrations to draw readers into learning a shocking amount about the building blocks of life, the variety of living creatures, human body parts, and types of plant life? Pure genius!

Green, Dan. **Physics: Why Matter Matters!** Kingfisher/Macmillan, 2008. 128p. \$8.95 Trade pb. 978-0-7534-6214-0. Glossary. Index. Illus.



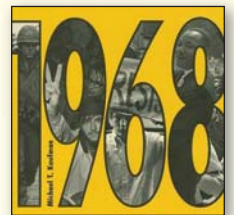
Simple, anime-style illustrations are used here to propel a shocking amount of information about physics into young minds. The principals of matter, energy, energy waves, light waves, atoms, electric currents, and nuclear matter are discussed in entertaining, educational detail.

Harrison, David L. **Pirates.** Illus. by Dan Burr. Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2008. 48p. \$17.95. 978-1-5907-8455-6. Illus. Biblio.



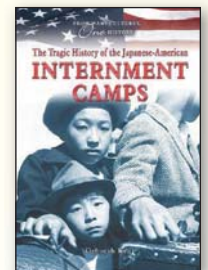
The somewhat brutal life of a pirate is told through individual poems. Introductory and concluding passages give a greater degree of understanding about notable pirates and add historical context.

Kaufman, Michael T. **1968.** Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2008. 148p. \$22.95. 978-1-5964-3428-8. Index. Photos. Source Notes. Further Reading. Chronology. Appendix. VOYA October 2008. 5Q 2P S A/YA



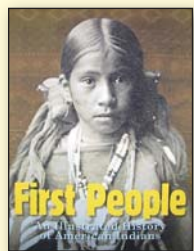
The beginning chapters are an informal collection of reports based on major headlines of 1968, followed by the articles as they ran in The New York Times newspaper. This book provides an engaging narrative plus primary source documents.

Kent, Deborah. **The Tragic History of the Japanese-American Internment Camps: From Many Cultures, One History.** Enslow, 2008. 128p. PLB \$31.93. 978-0-7660-2797-8. Glossary. Index. Source Notes. Further Reading. Chronology.

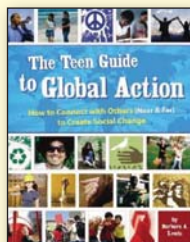


This compelling and honest account tells how the United States allowed wartime fear to overcome Constitutional rights. Absorbing personal accounts as well as the broader view allow a greater understanding of all involved.

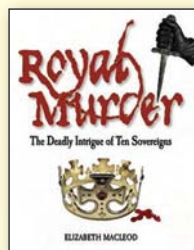
King, David C. **First People: An Illustrated History of American Indians.** DK, 2008. 192p. \$19.99. 978-0-7566-4092-7. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. Chronology. **VOYA** February 2009. **3Q 3P M J** *From the Ice Age to the present, this book presents a photographic essay of the Native American experience. Geographic boundaries and key historical moments are used to separate societies for deeper investigation in a great choice for visual learners.*



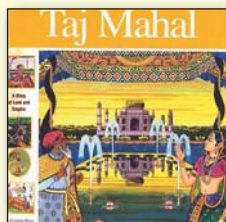
Lewis, Barbara A. **The Teen Guide to Global Action: How to Connect with Others (Near and Far) to Create Social Change.** Free Spirit, 2008. 135p. \$12.95 Trade pb. 978-1-57542-266-4. Index. Illus. Further Reading. *Following President Obama's call to action, teens will appreciate the variety of concrete suggestions in this book. Seven major areas of concern are discussed, each offering ideas for connecting with established local and global groups.*



MacLeod, Elizabeth. **Royal Murder: The Deadly Intrigue of Ten Sovereigns.** Annick Press, 2008. 128p. \$14.95 Trade pb. 978-1-5545-1127-3. Index. Illus. Photos. Source Notes. Further Reading. Chronology. *In-depth profiles of royalty are presented with comprehensive background and extras, including the true origin of the phrase, "Let them eat cake." The royal victims come from a variety of geographic locations and periods in history.*



Mann, Elizabeth. **Taj Mahal: A Story of Love and Empire.** Illus. by Alan Witschonke. Mikaya, 2008. 48p. \$22.95. 978-1-9314-1420-3. Glossary. Index. Illus. Biblio. Chronology. *Ruler of India, Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a memorial to his wife. This book describes the architectural wonder and, through its history, reveals the complex story of the Mongol Empire. The illustrations and engaging writing style make for easy reading.*



Miller, Ron. **Digital Art: Painting with Pixels.** Twenty-First Century/Lerner, 2008. 128p. PLB \$31.93. 978-0-8225-7516-0. Glossary. Source Notes. Biblio. Further Reading. Illus. Photos. **VOYA** June 2008. **4Q 4P M J S** *Creative, computer-literate teens will want to read this one. The history, how-to tips, and career options make it a one-stop shop for digital art. Clear explanations and visual demonstrations of ideas make this book a practical, useful tool.*

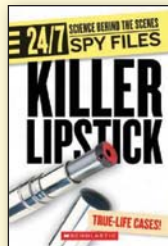


Nichols, Travis. **Punk Rock Etiquette: The Ultimate How-to Guide for DIY Punk, Indie, and Underground Bands.** Flash Point/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2008. 138p. \$12.95 Trade pb. 978-1-5964-3415-8. Glossary. Index. Illus. Further Reading. **VOYA** October 2008. **5Q 4P J S** *Perfect for enterprising, musical teens, this book is full of ideas about starting a band,*

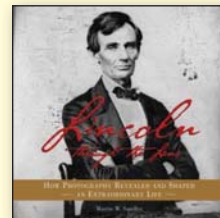


getting your music out there, merchandising, and touring. Its sense of humor and nonpatronizing attitude prompted a positive response from teen readers.

Rauf, Don. **Killer Lipstick: And Other Spy Gadgets.** 24/7: Science Behind the Scenes. Franklin Watts, 2008. 64p. PLB \$23. 978-0-5311-2084-2. \$7.95 Trade pb. 978-0-5311-7536-1. Index. Glossary. Photos. Further Reading. *History, science, math, and language arts are cleverly mixed into a topic that will draw the attention of teens. The real life examples make the ideas more relatable, and the photos of true spy equipment are fascinating.*



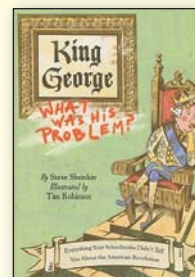
Sandler, Martin W. **Lincoln Through the Lens: How Photography Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Life.** Walker, 2008. 96p. \$19.95. 978-0-8027-9666-0. Index. Illus. Photos. Source Notes. Further Reading. **VOYA** December 2008. **4Q 4P M J S**



A creative new way to learn about a well-known man, this collection of images helps tell a story that words alone never could. From his personal life to his public office, President Lincoln embraced the potential inherent in photography, leaving behind this indelible legacy.

Schomp, Virginia. **Marching Toward Freedom: Drama of African-American History.** Benchmark/Marshall Cavendish, 2008. 80p. PLB \$35.64. 978-0-7614-2643-1. Glossary. Index. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. *From the Great Depression to the end of World War II, this book provides clear and simple chapters that discuss the progress of the Civil Rights Movement. Photographs and single-page, in-depth feature topics make a strong impression.*

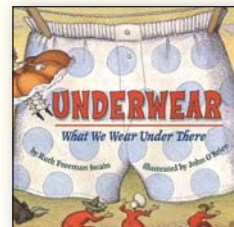
Sheinkin, Steve. **King George: What Was His Problem? Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About the American Revolution.** Illus. by Tim Robinson. Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2008. 195p. \$19.95. 978-1-59643-319-9. Index. Illus. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Reading. **VOYA** October 2008. **2Q 2P M J** *Not only does this book give an overview of a turning point in American history, it also does it with style. Key players and events are explained in context without losing the element of human drama.*



Skurzynski, Gloria. **Sweat and Blood: A History of U.S. Labor Unions.** Twenty-First Century/Lerner, 2008. 112p. PLB \$31.93. 978-0-8225-7594-8. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Further Resources.

Covering labor issues from the 1700s to the present day, this comprehensive work looks at the positive impact of unions on America's workforce. Teens felt it would be a great source for reports.

Swain, Ruth Freeman. **Underwear: What We Wear Under There.** Illus. by John O'Brien. Holiday House, 2008. 32p. \$16.95. 978-0-8234-1920-3. Chronology. Further Reading. *This book provides comprehensive overview of the history of underwear. Surprisingly educational, it shows how our undergarments can reflect changes in societies. According to teens, this book is "awesome" and "funny."*



Temple, Bob. **The Titanic: An Interactive History Adventure.** *You Choose Books.* Capstone Press, 2008. 112p. \$27.99. 978-1-4296-0163-4. Glossary. Index. Illus. Photos. Biblio. Further Reading. Chronology.

Teens can choose their destiny on the Titanic as part of the first class, third class, or working class. There's also a general introduction and conclusion about the ship and its passengers. Teens felt this book gave good information and was easy to read.

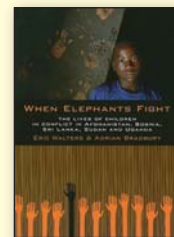
The Ultimate Teen Book Guide. Han, Daniel, et al., Eds. Walker, 2008. 432p. \$16.99 Trade pb. 978-0-8027-9731-5. Index. VOYA February 2008. 4Q 4P M J S

A whopping 700-plus books are reviewed and recommended by teens and authors. Each review includes an age range and what to

read next if the book appeals. Special features, featurettes, and poll results add interest. Teens felt it had "good suggestions."

Walters, Eric, and Adrian Bradbury. **When Elephants Fight: The Lives of Children in Conflict in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Uganda.** Orca, 2008. 96p. \$19.95. 978-1-55143-900-6. Photos. Maps. VOYA April 2009. 3Q 4P M

Five children share what it's like to live in a war zone. History and statistics of the nation, clear explanations of how the conflict started, and a follow-up on the condition of the child profiled help to present a powerful message. ■



TEENS SAY:

Wild Cats: Past & Present

"Lot's of cool pictures, cool information. Love the cat pics."—Kristin, 9th Grade

One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia

"Really cool and fun looking!"
—Isabel, 7th Grade
"It gave a lot of information and good pictures."
—Emma, 7th Grade

The Step-Tween Survival Guide: How to Deal with Life in a Stepfamily

"This would be a great book for kids who have to deal with this [issue]."—Kathryn, 6th Grade

Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher

"Cool, informational, and really interesting. A cool side of the story and more fact than *The Miracle Worker*."
—Andrew, 9th Grade
"Awesome book!! I'd heard a lot about Helen but not her teacher."—Isabella, 6th Grade

Ten Explorers Who Changed the World

"Good pictures and I like the layout."—Sarah, 9th Grade
"Some of the pictures are kind of weird but very cool."
—Isabel, 7th Grade

Biology: Life As We Know It!

"The pictures are really cute."
—Kristin, 9th Grade
"It is really helpful and makes learning fun."
—Kathryn, 6th Grade

Physics: Why Matter Matters

"This is good because it's information, but it's not just words."—Sarah, 9th Grade

1968

"Really interesting, great pictures."—Isabel, 7th Grade

First People: An Illustrated History of American Indians

"I like the set up of the book and all of the pictures. I loved this book!"—Emma, 7th Grade

Royal Murder: The Deadly Intrigue of Ten Sovereigns

"This book was amazing. Love the pictures, the variety of topics. Really cool!"
—Kristin, 9th Grade
"Really good info, good book for entertainment or reports."
—Isabella, 6th Grade

Digital Art: Painting with Pixels

"Awesome, amazing info."
—Isabella, 6th Grade

King George: What Was His Problem? Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About the American Revolution

"I like it. It was a good idea mixing humor and information."—Sarah, 9th Grade
"Funny and factual. Doesn't sugar coat things."—Isabel, 7th Grade

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE NONFICTION HONOR LIST 2008 SELECTION COMMITTEE

- **Sheila Benedum** is the Library Coordinator for Bay Village City Schools. She is Past President of the Ohio Educational Library/Media Association and recipient of their Award of Merit. Sheila lives in Rocky River, Ohio, with two very spoiled cats.
- **Cherie Pandora** is the librarian at Rocky River High School. A teacher with more than thirty years of experience, she is also her district's Coordinator of Media Education, K-12, and the recipient of three Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) mini-grants. She speaks frequently at conferences on the subjects of grant writing, preparing students for state and college entrance testing and the

transition to college, and using science and math resources.

- **Donna Zmrazek** is a librarian for the Berea City Schools in Berea, Ohio. She has worked as a junior high, senior high, and middle school librarian for the school district and is currently employed as an elementary librarian. She has also worked as a substitute for the Rocky River Public Library in Rocky River, Ohio, for more than seventeen years. She is a voracious reader of books for children, teens, and adults and focuses much of her spare time on readers' advisory for all.
- **Margie Coffey** has been a teacher in Berea City Schools for more than twenty-five years. Coffey has been fortunate enough

to have taught all grade levels, from Montessori preschool to college theatre classes. Literature and geography are her favorite classes to teach.

- **Stacey Hayman** has been a librarian at Rocky River Public Library for more than twelve years, with Young Adult being only one of the positions she's occupied. Being accepted as a reviewer for VOYA was fortuitous, both professionally and personally. Professionally she started reviewing adult books for another journal and is contributing to an RA online database. Personally she's much more excited to get the mail knowing there might be a book waiting!

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