

PJA MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2022

Making My Voice Heard ~ Books about Taking Action

*Descriptions are a compilation of information taken from various book review sites and personal recommendations.
An asterisk (*) indicates the title is recommended for advanced readers due to mature content and/or challenging reading level.*

FICTION

Ban This Book by Alan Gratz

Amy Anne is shy and soft-spoken, but don't mess with her when it comes to her favorite book in the whole world. Amy Anne and her lieutenants wage a battle for the books as they start a secret banned books locker library, make up ridiculous reasons to ban every single book in the library to make a point, and take a stand against censorship.

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. When Jerome meets another ghost, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances, Jerome's journeys toward understanding the history that may have led to the events that ended his life.

* ***Internment*** by Samira Ahmed

Taken from their home Layla Amin and her parents are relocated to a Muslim Internment Camp just a few miles down the dusty road from the infamous site of Manzanar. Inside the camp Layla rebels against the iron fisted authority of the camp and develops friendships with other like-minded young people. These friends, Layla's Jewish boyfriend (who is outside of the camp), and an apparently sympathetic camp guard are inspired by the story of the White Rose Society to rise up and resist.

Iqbal by Francesco D'Adamo

Thirteen-year-old Iqbal Masih was murdered in his Pakistani village in April 1995, a few months after he had received an international prize and traveled to Sweden and the United States, speaking about his six years as a bonded child in Lahore carpet factories. The murderers--perhaps part of the "Carpet Mafia"--have never been caught. Translated from Italian, D'Adamo retells the boy's story through the eyes of a fictional coworker.

* ***Moxie*** by Jennifer Mathieu

Vivian Carter's mom was a Riot Grrrl in the 1990s, but now she and Viv live a pretty quiet life in a small Texas town. When Viv witnesses a series of sexist incidents at her high school, she takes a page from her mom's past and makes a feminist zine that she distributes anonymously to her classmates. Before she knows it, Viv has started a revolution!

The Pants Project by Cat Clark

Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but with his new school's terrible dress code, he can't even wear pants. Only skirts. Strong-willed eleven-year-old Liv is determined to challenge his school's dress code and change his life for good.

Take the Mic: Fictional Stories of Everyday Resistance edited by Bethany C. Morrow

This anthology features fictional stories--in poems, prose, and art--that reflect a slice of the varied and limitless ways that readers like you resist every day. Take the Mic's powerful collection of stories features work by literary luminaries and emerging talent alike, including Newbery-winner Jason Reynolds.

* ***This is My America*** by Kim Johnson

At the center of this harrowing story is Tracy Beaumont, a Black 17-year-old. Every week she's been writing letters to *Innocence X* on behalf of her father, who has been sentenced to death row, wrongfully accused of murder. When the unthinkable happens, Tracy, an aspiring journalist, feels compelled to investigate. Johnson, a U of O provost, digs deep in this searing exploration of racial injustice against innocent Black men and the families left behind to pick up the pieces.

Uprising by Margaret Peterson Haddix

The 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City claimed the lives of 146 young immigrant workers bringing attention to the unfair labor practices in America. This historical novel draws upon the experiences of three very different young women who fight in their own ways against the harsh conditions they work under--and all of them are at the factory on the day of the fateful fire leaving readers guessing until the last page who--if anyone--survives.

White Rose by Kip Wilson

Disillusioned by the propaganda of Nazi Germany, Sophie Scholl, her brother, and his fellow soldiers formed the White Rose, a group that wrote and distributed anonymous letters criticizing the Nazi regime and calling for action from their fellow German citizens. This debut novel told in verse recounts the lives of Sophie and her friends and highlights their brave stand against fascism in Nazi Germany.

NON-FICTION

****The Autobiography of Malcolm X*** by Malcolm X and Alex Haley

Malcolm X's memoir describes with blistering honesty his transformation from a bitter, self-destructive petty criminal into an articulate (and very controversial) political activist. At the core of this monumental book is Malcolm X's emphasis on self-respect and self-help for African Americans.

The Awakening of Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz with Tiffany D. Jackson

A powerful account of the activist's adolescent years in jail, where Malcolm reads, learns, and discovers his gift for public speaking, debate, and, ultimately, influencing others. Written by his daughter Ilyasah Shabazz along with award-winning author, Tiffany D. Jackson.

Beyond Courage by Doreen Rappaport

In a stunning work of nonfiction for young people, award-winning author Doreen Rappaport presents 21 true stories of defiance and heroism in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II. Rappaport took six years to research and write this book, including conducting extensive interviews with some of the survivors whose stories she shares in this volume.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose

Nine months before Rosa Parks' history-making protest on a city bus, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old Montgomery, Alabama, high-school student, was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. Hoose draws from numerous personal interviews with Colvin in this exceptional title that is part historical account, part memoir.

Enough is Enough: How Students Can Join the Fight for Gun Safety by Michelle Roehm McCann and Shannon Watts

Enough Is Enough is a call to action for teens ready to lend their voices to the gun violence prevention movement. This handbook deftly explains America's gun violence issues—myths and facts, causes and perpetrators, solutions and change-makers—and provides a road map for effective activism.

****From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement*** by

Paula Yoo

America in 1982: Japanese car companies are on the rise and believed to be putting U.S. auto workers out of their jobs, so Anti-Asian American sentiments are escalating. In Detroit, a bar fight turns fatal, leaving a Chinese American man, Vincent Chin, beaten to death at the hands of two white men. Paula Yoo has crafted a searing examination of the killing, the trial, the verdict, and the protests that led to the first federal civil rights trial involving a crime against an Asian American.

Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice by Bryan Stevenson

Acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom. Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization.

Make Trouble (Young Readers Edition): Standing Up, Speaking Out and Finding the Courage to Lead by Cecile Richards with

Lauren Peterson

Former Planned Parenthood president and activist Cecile Richards describes her youth including the front row seat from which she observed the rise of women in American politics. By sharing her story, she shines a light on the people and lessons that have gotten her through good times and bad, and encourages her audience to take risks, make mistakes, and make trouble along the way.

March: Book One and ***March: Book Two*** and ***March: Book Three*** by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin (*read all 3 books*)

Congressman John Lewis is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress. *March* is a vivid first-hand account, told in a graphic novel format, of Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. Books One & Two span John Lewis' youth and early political career with Book Three focusing on major historical moments of the Civil Rights movement culminating with the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Marley Dias Gets It Done: and So Can You by Marley Dias

Marley Dias, the powerhouse girl-wonder who started the #1000blackgirlbooks campaign, speaks to kids about her passion for making our world a better place, and how to make their dreams come true! In this accessible guide, Marley Dias explores activism, social justice, volunteerism, equity and inclusion, and using social media for good.

We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Adichie offers readers a unique definition of feminism for the twenty-first century, one rooted in inclusion and awareness. Drawing extensively on her own experiences and her understanding of the often-masked realities of sexual politics, here is one remarkable author's exploration of what it means to be a woman now—and an of-the-moment rallying cry for why we should all be feminists. Published in 2014, this highly acclaimed, provocative New York Times bestseller is adapted from the much-admired 2012 TEDx talk of the same name.

FILMS (optional)

13th (not rated)

42 (PG-13)

Blackfish (PG-13)

***Gandhi** (PG)

Good Night, Good Luck (PG)

***The Hate U Give** (PG-13)

He Named Me Malala (PG-13)

John Lewis: Good Trouble (not rated)

On the Basis of Sex (PG-13)

Paper Clips (G)

Rachel Carson: American Experience (not rated)

RBG (PG)

Selma (PG-13)

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days (not rated)

***The Times of Harvey Milk** (not rated)

DESCRIPTIONS

13th (Not Rated)

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans.

42 (PG-13)

The life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey.

Blackfish (PG-13)

Capitalizing on the power of film to bring attention to controversial issues, this documentary follows the captivity of killer whales and its dangers for both humans and whales.

***Gandhi** (PG)

Biography of Mohandas Gandhi, the lawyer who became the famed leader of the Indian revolts against the British rule through his philosophy of nonviolent protest.

Good Night, Good Luck (PG)

Based on the true efforts of CBS Reporter Edward R. Murrow and his producer Fred W. Friendly who took a stand against controversial senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950's.

The Hate U Give (PG-13)

Starr Carter, a black teenager well-versed in code-switching between her black community and the prep school her parents send her to, is driven to action after witnessing the death of her friend during a traffic stop.

He Named Me Malala (PG-13)

A look at the events leading up to the Taliban's attack on Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai for speaking out on girls' education followed by the aftermath, including her speech to the United Nations.

John Lewis: Good Trouble (Not Rated)

This film explores Georgia representative's 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health care reform, and immigration.

On the Basis of Sex (PG-13)

A young Ruth Bader Ginsburg brings a groundbreaking case to the U.S. Court of Appeals that overturns a century of gender discrimination.

Paper Clips (G)

This documentary focuses on the children of Whitwell, Tennessee, who as part of their study of the Holocaust tried to collect 6 million paper clips representing the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis. Their efforts ultimately educate, inspire, and unite the community.

Rachel Carson: American Experience (not rated)

A clear, thoughtful and awakening representation of the shy but brilliant woman who wrote the most controversial book of her time about the environmental impact of chemicals and pesticides.

RBG (PG)

At the age of 85, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a lengthy legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. Explore her unique and unknown personal journey of her rise to the nation's highest court.

Selma (PG-13)

A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days (not rated)

A dramatization of the final days of Sophie Scholl, one of the most famous members of the German World War II anti-Nazi resistance movement, The White Rose.

***The Times of Harvey Milk** (not rated)

A documentary of the successful career and assassination of San Francisco's first elected gay councilor.