

Book Review: Shark Lady

Author: Jess Keating

Illustrator: Marta Alvarez Miguens

Grade Level: Grades 2-5

Guided Reading Level: GR Level N

Information from Amazon



https://www.amazon.com/Shark-Lady-Eugenie-Fearless-Scientist/dp/1492642045/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3MM3K90LLAN0P&keywords=shark+lady+the+true+story+of+how+eugenie+clark&qid=1678403938&srefix=shark+lad%2Caps%2C165&sr=8-1

One of *New York Times*' Twelve Books for Feminist Boys and Girls!

This is the story of a woman who dared to dive, defy, discover, and inspire. This is the story of Shark Lady. One of the best science picture books for children, *Shark Lady* is a must for both teachers and parents alike!

An Amazon Best Book of the Month

Named a Best Children's Book of 2017 by *Parents* magazine

Eugenie Clark fell in love with sharks from the first moment she saw them at the aquarium. She couldn't imagine anything more exciting than studying these graceful creatures. But Eugenie quickly discovered that many people believed sharks to be ugly and scary—and they didn't think women should be scientists.

Determined to prove them wrong, Eugenie devoted her life to learning about sharks. After earning several college degrees and making countless discoveries, Eugenie wrote herself into the history of science, earning the nickname "Shark Lady." Through her accomplishments, she taught the world that sharks were to be admired rather than feared and that women can do anything they set their minds to.

An inspiring story by critically acclaimed zoologist Jess Keating about finding the strength to discover truths that others aren't daring enough to see. Includes a timeline of Eugenie's life and many fin-tastic shark facts.

Review Highlights...

- Features a White-American female protagonist, Eugenie.
- Features a mom/dad family dynamic household and neighborhood.
- Shows the gift of perseverance for your passion and love of a topic or subject.
 - Eugenie loved sharks and tried to immerse herself in their world.
 - Eugenie faced the opposition of people telling her she couldn't be a zoologist.
- Eugenie Clark became the first scientist in the world to train sharks.
- Beautifully illustrated.
- Written with descriptive words that allow the reader to fully participate in Eugenie's world.
- Includes SHARK BITES—information about sharks; names and timelines.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Information researched/reviewed/organized by Bridgette Blue, DEI Consultant. 2023

Book Review: The Flying Girl

How Aida de Acosta Learned to Soar

Author: Margarita Engle

Illustrator: Sara Palacios

Grade Level: Grades DK-3

Guided Reading Level: GR Level L

Information from Amazon Website...



https://www.amazon.com/Flying-Girl-Aida-Acosta-Learned/dp/1481445022/ref=sr_1_1?crid=ARTGGQMZ3AHP&keywords=the+Flying+girl+how+a%C3%ADda+de+acosta+learned+to+soar&qid=1678405635&srefix=The+Flying+girl%2Caps%2C177&sr=8-1

In this beautiful picture book filled with soaring words and buoyant illustrations, award-winners Margarita Engle and Sara Palacios tell the inspiring true story of Áida de Acosta, the first woman to fly a motorized aircraft.

On a lively street in the lovely city of Paris, a girl named Áida glanced up and was dazzled by the sight of an airship. Oh, how she wished she could soar through the sky like that! The inventor of the airship, Alberto, invited Áida to ride with him, but she didn't want to be a passenger. She wanted to be the pilot.

Áida was just a teenager, and no woman or girl had ever flown before. She didn't let that stop her, though. All she needed was courage and a chance to try.

Review Highlights...

- Features a Cuban-American female protagonist, Aida, a teenage girl.
- Aida de Costa is known historically as the first woman of powered flight.
- Born in 1884, Aida faced the restricted thoughts and perceptions about women and their abilities and place in the world.
 - Shows her perseverance to stay focused on her dream of flying an airship.
 - Demonstrates the power of believing in yourself.
 - Shows the results of practice, lots of practice.
- Beautifully illustrated.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.
- Written with very descriptive words.
- Book Quote: **“Sometimes all it takes to change the world is one wild dreamer’s soaring example.”**

Book Review: Wood, Wire, Wings

Emma Lilian Todd Invents an Airplane

Author: Kirsten W. Larson

Illustrator: Tracy Subisak

Grade Level: Grades 2-6

Lexile Reading Level: 790



Information from Amazon Website

https://www.amazon.com/Wood-Wire-Wings-Invents-Airplane/dp/1629799386/ref=sr_1_1?crid=23DV1SM39EGJ0&keywords=wood%2C+wire%2C+wings+emma+lillian+todd+invents+an+airplane&qid=1678406810&sprefix=wood%2C+wire%2C+wi n%2Caps%2C186&sr=8-1

This riveting nonfiction picture book biography explores both the failures and successes of self-taught engineer Emma Lilian Todd as she tackles one of the greatest challenges of the early 1900s: designing an airplane.

Emma Lilian Todd's mind was always soaring--she loved to solve problems. Lilian tinkered and fiddled with all sorts of objects, turning dreams into useful inventions. As a child, she took apart and reassembled clocks to figure out how they worked. As an adult, typing up patents at the U.S. Patent Office, Lilian built the inventions in her mind, including many designs for flying machines. However, they all seemed too impractical. Lilian knew she could design one that worked. She took inspiration from both nature and her many failures, driving herself to perfect the design that would eventually successfully fly. Illustrator Tracy Subisak's art brings to life author Kirsten W. Larson's story of this little-known but important engineer.

Review Highlights...

- Features a White-American female protagonist, Emma “Lilian” Todd.
- STEAM focused–invention timeline.
- Features a multigenerational extended family dynamic.
 - Lilian has a very special relationship with her Grandfather.
 - Lilian was inspired to be an inventor from her Grandfather.
 - Lilian wanted to know how things worked, so she took them apart.
- Lilian had to overcome prevailing societal ideas that inventing wasn’t women’s work.
- Features the examination of nature to design inventions.
- Demonstrates the process of inventing through tenacious practice and trials.
- Explores the GIFT of FAILURE.
- Historically referenced and features photos from 1908/based on a real person and events.
- Beautifully illustrated and includes very descriptive words.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Information researched/reviewed/organized by Bridgette Blue, DEI Consultant. 2023

Book Review: How to Solve a Problem

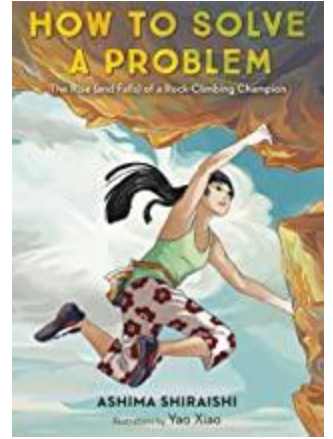
The Rise and (Falls) of a Rock Climbing Champion

Author: Ashima Shiraishi

Illustrator: Yao Xiao

Grade Level: Grades DK-3

Guided Reading Level: GR Level O



Information from Scholastic Website

https://www.amazon.com/How-Solve-Problem-Rock-Climbing-Champion/dp/1524773271/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2PQFP6ZJT80VJ&keywords=how+to+solve+a+problem+ashima+shiraishi&qid=1678407189&sprex=How+to+solve+pro%2Caps%2C151&sr=8-1

From Ashima Shiraishi, one of the world's youngest and most skilled climbers, comes a true story of strength and perseverance--in rock climbing and in life.

To a rock climber, a boulder is called a "problem," and you solve it by climbing to the top. There are twists and turns, falls and scrapes, and obstacles that seem insurmountable until you learn to see the possibilities within them. And then there is the moment of triumph, when there's nothing above you but sky and nothing below but a goal achieved.

Ashima Shiraishi draws on her experience as a world-class climber in this story that challenges readers to tackle the problems in their own lives and rise to greater heights than they would have ever thought possible.

Review Highlights...

- Features a Japanese-American female protagonist, Ashima Shiraishi.
- Features a strong bond between father and daughter.
- Features a beautiful landscape that is set in Central Park, New York City.
- Demonstrates the power of purposeful practice to accomplish a goal.
- Features the use of math to solve problems.
- Focuses the reader on the sport of rock climbing.
- Very cleverly and artistically illustrated; engaging.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Book Review: One Plastic Bag

Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia

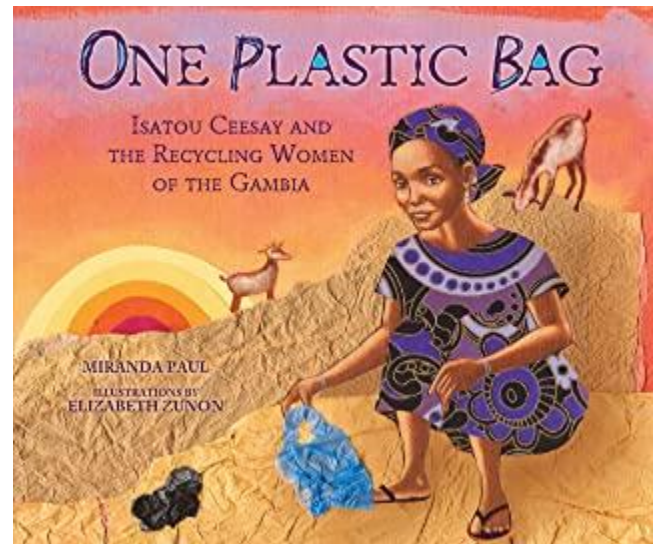
Author: Miranda Paul

Illustrator: Elizabeth Zunon

Grade Level: Grades DK-3

Guided Reading Level: GR Level O

Information from Amazon Website



https://www.amazon.com/One-Plastic-Bag-Recycling-Millbrook/dp/1467716081/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3QLTOL4YM4PRP&keywords=one+plastic+bag+isatou+ceesay+and+the+recycling+women+of+the+gambia&qid=1678410377&srefix=one+plastic+bag%2Caps%2C171&sr=8-1

The inspiring true story of how one African woman began a movement to recycle the plastic bags that were polluting her community.

Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two. Then ten. Then a hundred.

The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, leaving behind a terrible smell. Some were buried, but they strangled gardens. They killed livestock that tried to eat them. Something had to change.

Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person's actions really can make a difference in our world.

Review Highlights...

- A true story about the need for recycling and protecting the Earth.
- Features an African (Gambian) female protagonist, Isatou Ceesay.
- Features beautiful illustrations.
- Features Gambian culture, terms and phrases.
- Features a multi-generational family that includes parents, grandparents, and children.
- Features life in an African village.
- Features the power of a determined woman to change the world.
- The author uses this story to discuss the harmful results of plastics in our environment.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.

Information researched/reviewed/organized by Bridgette Blue, DEI Consultant. 2023

Book Review: Building Zaha

The Story of Architect Zaha Hadid

Author/Illustrator: Victoria Tentler-Krylov

Grade Level: Grades DK-4

Guided Reading Level: GR Level P



Information from Amazon Website¹

https://www.amazon.com/Building-Zaha-Story-Architect-Hadid/dp/1338282832/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2Z44YFNP25OHW&keywords=building+zaha+the+story+of+architect+zaha+hadid&qid=1678409355&srefix=building+z%2Caps%2C221&sr=8-1

An inspiring picture book biography about British Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid, who was a pioneer in her field against all odds, told by debut author-illustrator Victoria Tentler-Krylov. The city of Baghdad was full of thinkers, artists, and scientists, the littlest among them Zaha Hadid. Zaha knew from a young age that she wanted to be an architect. She set goals for herself and followed them against all odds. A woman in a man's world, and a person of color in a white field, Zaha was met with resistance at every turn. When critics called her a diva and claimed her ideas were unbuildable, she didn't let their judgments stop her from setting goals and achieving them one by one, finding innovative ways to build projects that became famous the world over. She persisted, she followed her dreams, and she succeeded.

Review Highlights...

- Features a British-Iraqi female protagonist.
 - Illustrates with images of Iraqi culture; like mosques and the city of Baghdad.
- Features a multigenerational extended family.
- Features examples of risk/consequences.
- Features the passion and tenacity of Zaha Hadid.
- Demonstrates female perseverance.
- Historically referenced/based on a real person and real events.
- Features a timeline and photographs of the protagonist.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused story.
- Book Quote: **You really have to have a goal. The goal posts might shift, but you should have a goal.**