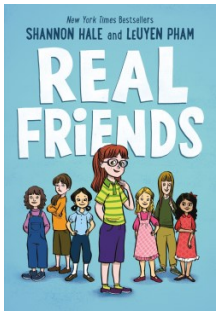
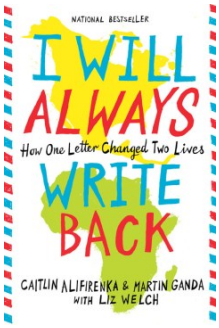
8th Grade
SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS



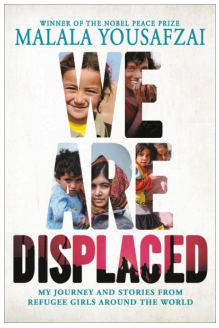
Real Friends
Shannon Hale

Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top . . . even if it means bullying others.



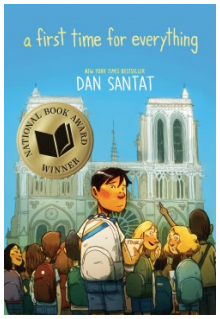
I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives
Caitlin Alifirenka

Traces the friendship between an American girl and her pen pal from Zimbabwe.



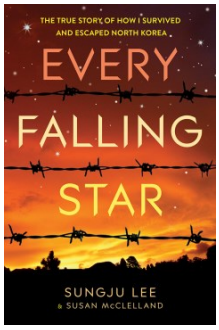
We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls around the World
Malala Yousafzai

The Nobel Peace Prize winner presents an urgent reminder about the plight of the world's refugees.



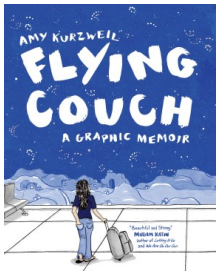
A First Time for Everything
Dan Santat

The author shares his life-changing middle school trip to Europe during which he experiences a series of firsts, including first love.



Every Falling Star: How I Survived and Escaped North Korea
Sungju Lee

At the age of twelve, Lee was forced to live on the streets of North Korea.



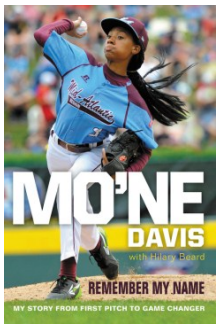
Flying Couch: a Graphic Memoir
Amy Kurzweil

How the author came to terms with the story of her grandmother, who escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II.



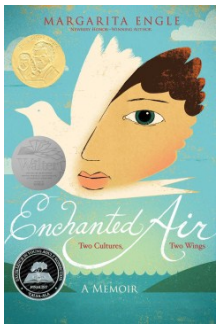
Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina
Misty Copeland

The first female African American principal dancer in American Ballet Theatre history recounts her road to stardom.



Remember My Name: My Story from First Pitch to Game Changer
Mo'ne Davis

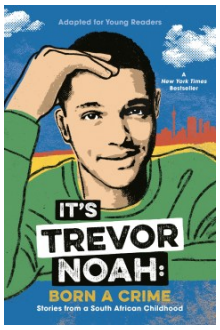
The first female pitcher to win a game in the Little League World Series describes her life and athletic exploits.



Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir
Margarita Engle

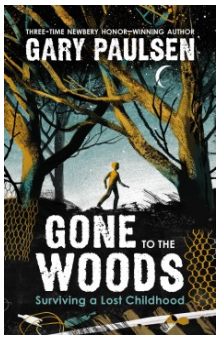
In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus



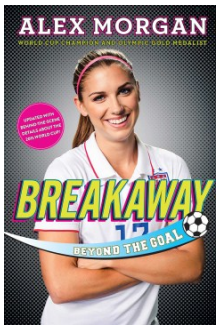
It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood: Adapted for Young Readers
Trevor Noah

Traces the author's experiences growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid.



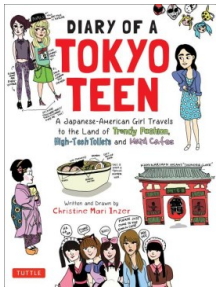
Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood
Gary Paulsen

From the author of the bestselling Hatchet comes a true story of high-stakes wilderness survival.



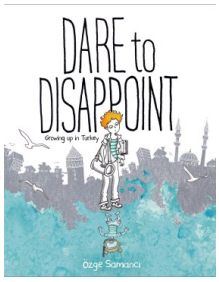
Breakaway
Alex Morgan

The Olympic gold medal-winning soccer player details her path to success.



Diary of a Tokyo Teen
Christine Mari Inzer

The author recounts in graphic novel format her visit to her grandparents in Tokyo the summer before she turned sixteen.



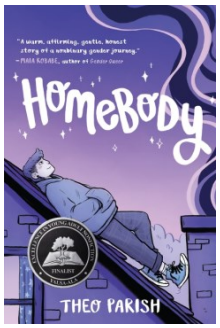
Dare to Disappoint: Growing up in Turkey
Özge Samanci

Özge recounts her story using inventive collages, weaving together images of the sea, politics, science, and friendship.



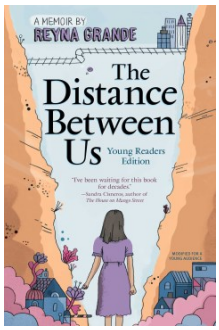
Funny, You Don't Look Autistic: a Comedian's Guide to Life on the Spectrum
Michael McCreary

Diagnosed with ASD at age five, McCreary got hit with the performance bug not much later.



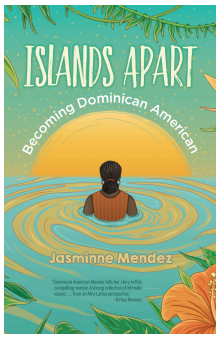
Homebody
Theo Parish

The author shares their journey to find a home within themself, eventually finding the term "nonbinary," which finally struck a chord.



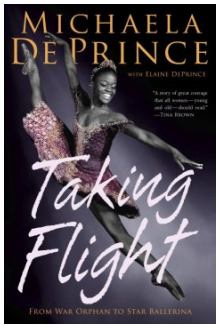
The Distance between Us: Young Readers Edition
Reyna Grande

At the age of 8, Reyna Grande made the dangerous and illegal trek across the border from Mexico to the United States.



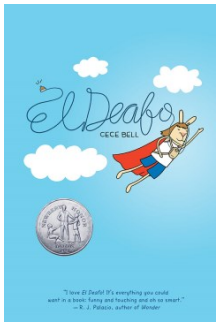
Islands Apart: Becoming Dominican American
Jasminne Mendez

The author ultimately assumes aspects of both her parents' culture and society at large to become Dominican American.



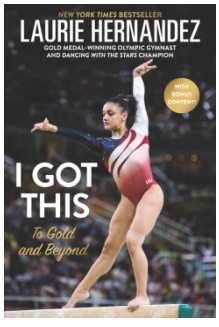
Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina
Michaela DePrince

Once living in war-torn Sierra Leone, DePrince is now one of the premiere ballerinas in the United States.



El Deafo
Cece Bell

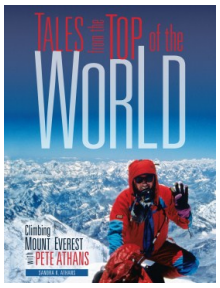
The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age.



I Got This: To Gold and Beyond
Laurie Hernandez

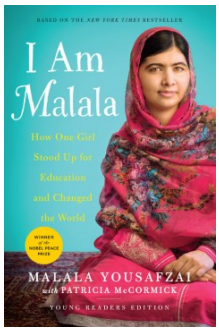
Gold medal-winning Olympic gymnast and Dancing with the Stars champion Laurie Hernandez shares her story in her own words.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus



Tales from the Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest with Pete Athans
Sandra K. Athans

The author looks at the difficulty climbers face when ascending Mount Everest.



I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban
Malala Yousafzai

Documents the educational pursuits of the Nobel Peace Prize nominee who became an international symbol of hope and inspiration.



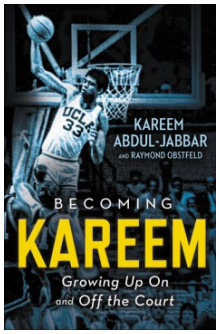
Brown Girl Dreaming
Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems, the author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.



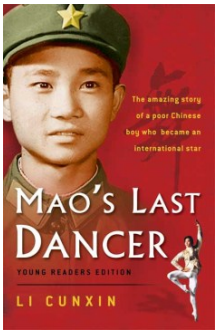
Caught by the Sea: My Life on Boats
Gary Paulsen

Gary Paulsen tells about his lifelong love of sailing, boats he has owned, and the storms, sharks, and peaceful lagoons he has experienced on his voyages.



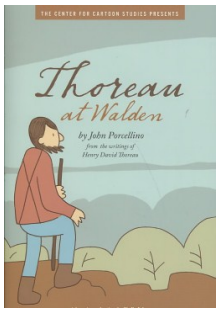
Becoming Kareem: Growing up on and off the Court
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The author's life growing up in New York, becoming the basketball star he's known to be, and getting involved in the world around him as an activist.



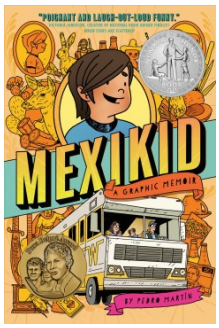
Mao's Last Dancer: Young Readers Edition
Cunxin Li

Li was chosen from millions of children to serve in Mao's cultural revolution by studying at the Beijing Dance Academy.



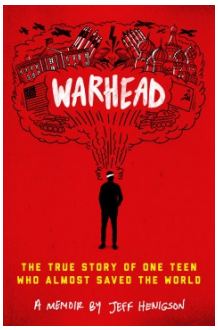
Thoreau at Walden
Henry David Thoreau

This graphic novel, narrated in Thoreau's own words, weaves together elements from his famous works.



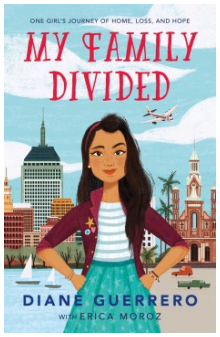
Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir
Pedro Martín

During a family road trip to Mexico, Martín connects with his grandfather and learns more about his own Mexican identity.



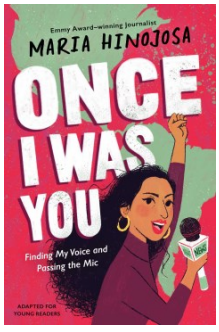
Warhead: The True Story of One Teen Who Almost Saved the World
Jeff Henigson

Chronicles the author's battle with brain cancer as a teenager and his 1986 wish to plead for nuclear disarmament and world peace.



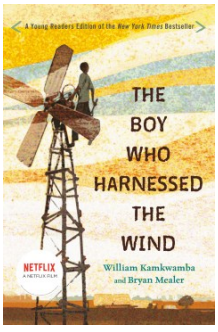
My Family Divided: One Girl's Journey of Home, Loss, and Hope
Diane Guerrero

The actress recounts the traumatic experience of her parents' deportation as a teenager.



Once I Was You
Maria Hinojosa

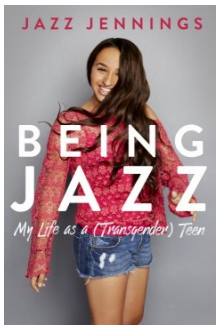
The story of a journalist, a bestselling author, and the first Latina to found a national independent nonprofit newsroom in the United States.



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition
William Kamkwamba

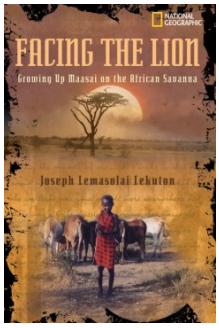
The story of a 14-year-old who built a windmill out of junkyard scraps to bring electricity to his famine-stricken Malawi village.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus



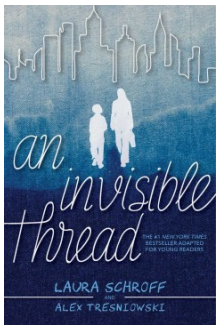
Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen
Jazz Jennings

The author recounts how her public experiences have influenced her attitude towards the transgender community.



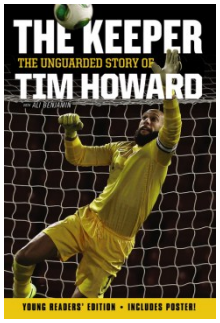
Facing the Lion: Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna
Joseph Lekuton

A member of the Maasai people describes growing up in a northern Kenya village, travelling to America to attend college, and becoming a teacher.



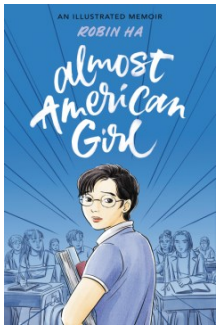
An Invisible Thread: Young Readers Edition
Laura Schroff

Documents the remarkable friendship between a busy sales executive and an 11-year-old homeless boy, tracing how their unexpected bond transformed both of their lives.



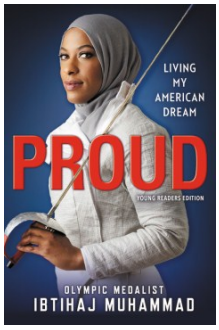
The Keeper: The Unguarded Story of Tim Howard
Tim Howard

The soccer goalkeeper shares the story of his rise in becoming one of the world's finest goalkeepers and achieving international stardom.



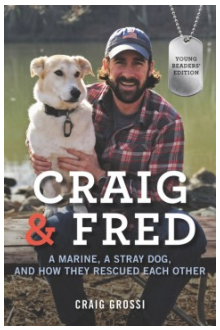
Almost American Girl : An Illustrated Memoir
Robin Ha

A powerful and moving teen graphic novel memoir about immigration, belonging, and how arts can save a life.



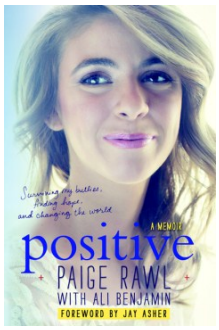
Proud: Living My American Dream
Ibtihaj Muhammad

Shares the life story of the Olympic fencer.



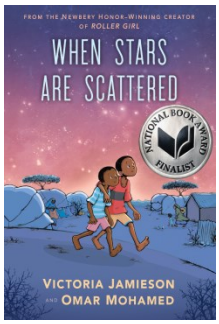
Craig & Fred: A Marine, a Stray Dog, and How They Rescued Each Other: Young Readers Edition
Craig Grossi

Tells the uplifting true story of a U.S. Marine, the stray dog he met on an Afghan battlefield, and how they saved each other.



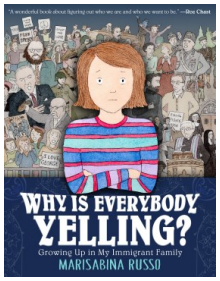
Positive: Surviving My Bullies, Finding Hope, and Living to Change the World: A Memoir
Paige Rawl

An account by a teen survivor of bullying describes how after being born HIV positive, her status was discovered at school.



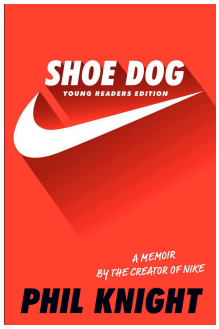
When Stars Are Scattered
Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed

When an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in their refugee camp home.



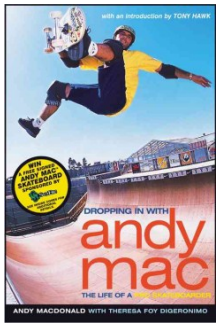
Why Is Everybody Yelling? Growing up in My Immigrant Family
Marisabina Russo

A moving memoir of the author's experiences with family, religion, and coming of age in the aftermath of World War II.



Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike: Young Readers Edition
Phil Knight

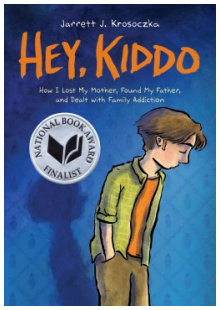
An eye-opening look into the story of Knight before his multibillion dollar company.



Dropping in with Andy Mac: The Life of a Pro Skateboarder
Andy Macdonald

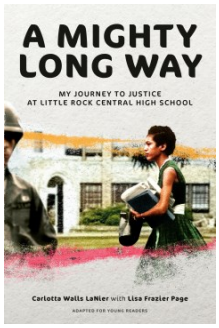
Skateboarder Andy Macdonald offers the story of his road to success.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus



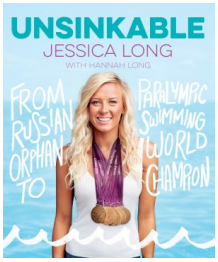
Hey, Kiddo
Jarrett Krosoczka

This traces the author's unconventional coming of age with a drug-addict mother, an absent father and two lovingly opinionated grandparents.



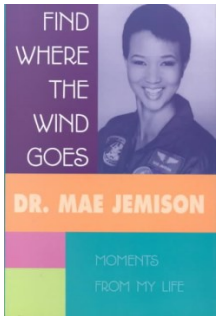
A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School
Carlotta Walls LaNier

The youngest member of the Little Rock Nine at 14 years old, Carlotta Walls shares her courageous story.



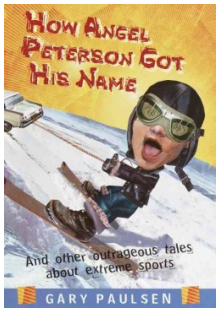
Unsinkable: From Russian Orphan to Paralympic Swimming World Champion
Jessica Tatiana Long

The champion Paralympic swimmer was born in Russia with a condition that would result in the amputation of both legs below her knee.



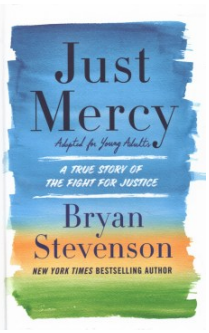
Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from My Life
Mae Jemison

The first African American woman to travel to space shares memories from childhood, to college, to her work in West Africa.



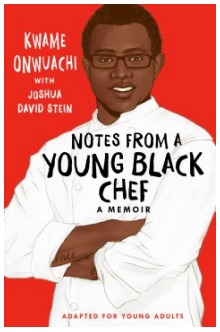
How Angel Peterson Got His Name
Gary Paulsen

Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s.



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

Details the author's personal experience, challenges, and efforts as a lawyer and social advocate.



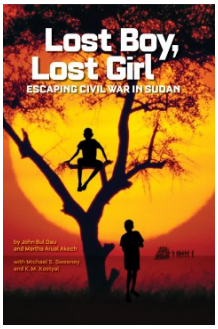
Notes from a Young Black Chef: Adapted for Young Readers
Kwame Onwuachi

Covers the chef's Bronx childhood, his training in acclaimed restaurants, and the racial barriers that challenged his career.



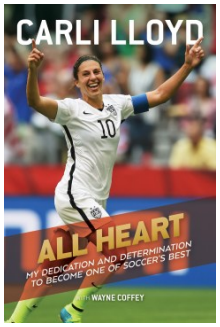
The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival
Estelle Nadel

When the Nazis invade her small Polish town, Enia Feld is separated from her family and forced into hiding.



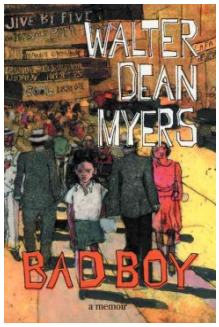
Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War in Sudan
John Bul Dau

One of thousands of children who fled strife in southern Sudan, Dau survived hunger, exhaustion, and violence.



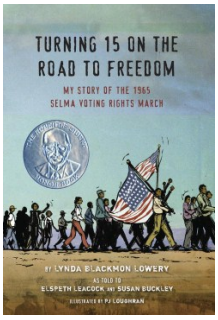
All Heart: My Dedication and Determination to Become One of Soccer's Best
Carli Lloyd

A young reader's edition of the memoir by the Olympic gold medalist and World Cup champion.



Bad Boy: A Memoir
Walter Dean Myers

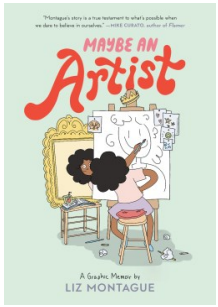
The author relates his experiences growing up in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s.



Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March
Lynda Blackmon Lowery

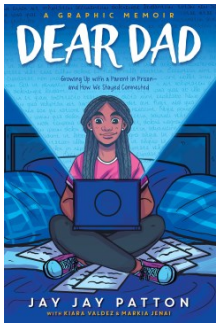
The story of the youngest person to complete the momentous Selma to Montgomery March.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus



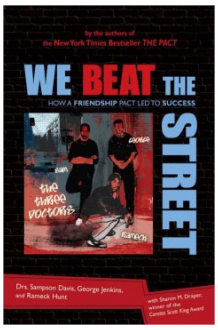
Maybe an Artist, a Graphic Memoir
Elizabeth Montague

A brilliant, laugh-out-loud memoir in which the author shares the events in her life that led to her success.



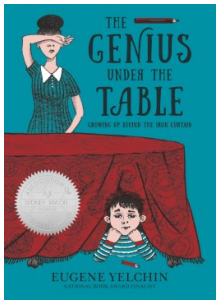
Dear Dad: Growing up with a Parent in Prison--and How We Stayed Connected
Jay Jay Patton

The author shares her life growing up with a dad in and out of prison and how together they created Photo Patch.



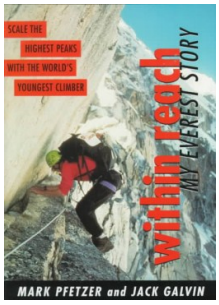
We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Helped Us Succeed
Sampson Davis

Three boys found the strength to work through their difficulties and complete high school, college, and medical school together.



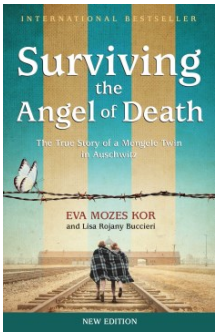
The Genius under the Table: Growing up behind the Iron Curtain
Eugene Yelchin

The award-winning author and artist recounts his childhood in Cold War-era Russia as a young boy desperate to understand his place in his family.



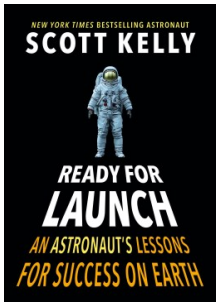
Within Reach: My Everest Story
Mark Pfetzer

The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia.



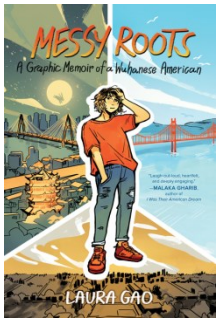
Surviving the Angel of Death: The True Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz
Eva Mozes Kor

Describes the life of Eva Mozes and her twin sister Miriam as they were interred at the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust.



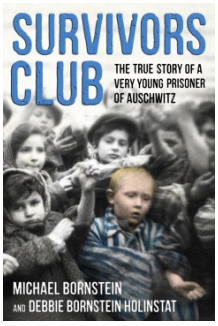
Ready for Launch: An Astronaut's Lessons for Success on Earth
Scott Kelly

Using ten life-changing moments from his path to space, Kelly shares his advice.



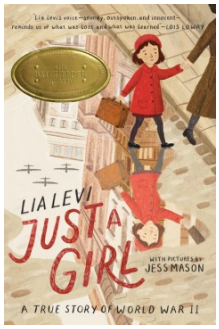
Messy Roots: a Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese-American
Laura Gao

This funny graphic memoir follows a queer Chinese American's immigration to Texas.



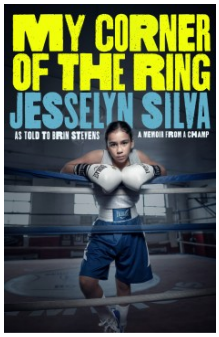
Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz
Michael Bornstein

Michael Bornstein was one of the youngest children to be liberated from Auschwitz.



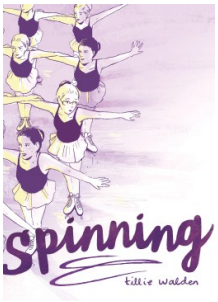
Just a Girl: A True Story of World War II
Lia Levi

The author recalls her experiences coming of age in Fascist Italy during World War II.



My Corner of the Ring: A Memoir from a Champ
Jesselyn Silva

Twelve-year-old Jesselyn Silva offers a ringside seat to girl power and what it takes to win in the ring and in life: punch by punch.



Spinning
Tillie Walden

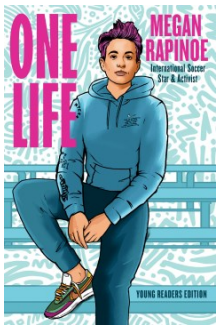
A graphic memoir recounts the years Walden spent competitively figure skating, before her developing love of art and first girlfriend causes her to question the insular world of figure skating.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus



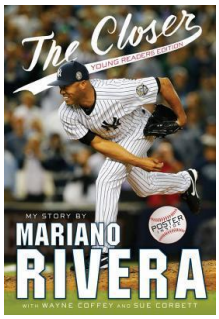
This Kid Can Fly: It's about Ability (Not Disability)
Aaron Philip

An uplifting memoir traces the author's remarkable experiences that demonstrate how his abilities and achievements have defined him more than the challenges of cerebral palsy.



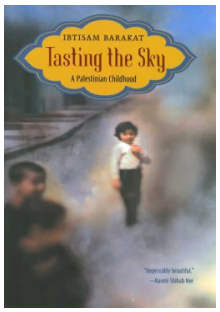
One Life: Adapted for Young Readers
Megan Rapinoe

Join Olympic gold medalist, two-time Women's World Cup champion, and trailblazing activist Megan Rapinoe in the fight for equality and justice.



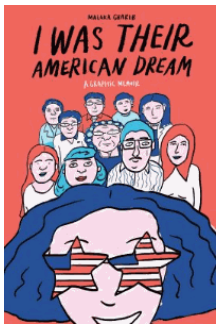
The Closer: Young Readers Edition
Mariano Rivera

From a childhood playing pickup games in Panama to an epic career with the New York Yankees, Mariano's rise to greatness has been anything but ordinary.



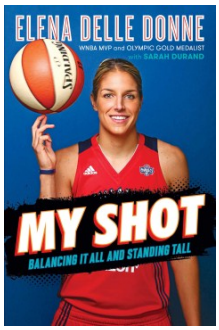
Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood
Ibtisam Barakat

The author remembers her childhood in Ramallah and as a Palestinian refugee in the late 1960s.



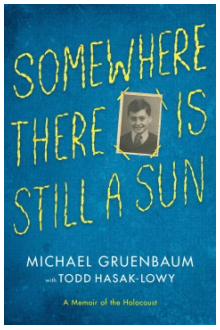
I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir
Malaka Gharib

Malaka navigated her childhood chasing her parents' ideals and trying to be an all-American kid



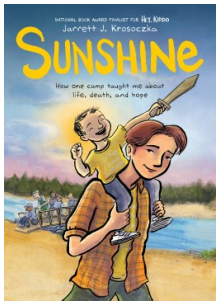
My Shot: Balancing It All and Standing Tall
Elena Delle Donne

The professional basketball player and 2016 Olympic gold medalist shares her inspirational story.



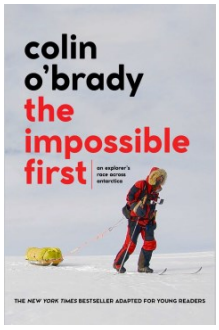
Somewhere There Is Still a Sun: A Memoir of the Holocaust
Michael Gruenbaum

Twelve-year-old Michael and his family are deported from Prague to the Terezin concentration camp.



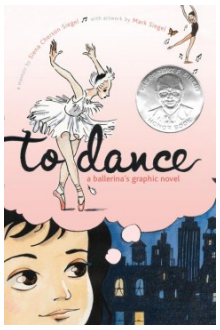
Sunshine: How One Camp Taught Me about Life, Death, and Hope
Jarrett Krosoczka

The author shares his extraordinary experiences as a counselor at Camp Sunshine, a camp for seriously ill kids and their families.



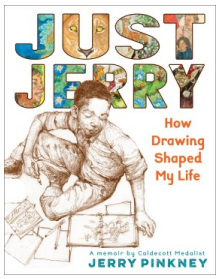
The Impossible First: An Explorer's Race across Antarctica: Adapted for Young Readers
Colin O'Brady

An account of O'Brady's 54-day solo crossing of Antarctica.



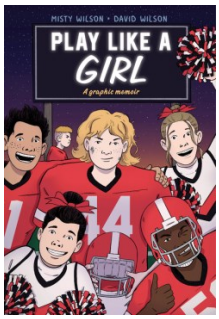
To Dance: A Memoir
Siena Cherson Siegel

The author describes how she first decided she wanted to be a ballerina at the age of six.



Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life
Jerry Pinkney

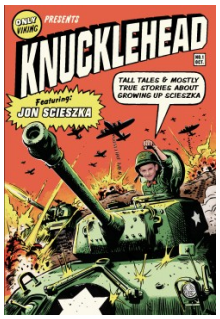
The author shares how drawing offered him a sense of calm, control and confidence during a time when the segregation of Black Americans was the norm.



Play Like a Girl: A Graphic Memoir
Misty Wilson

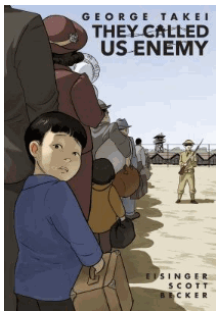
An inspiring graphic memoir about teamwork, friendship, crushes and touchdowns.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus



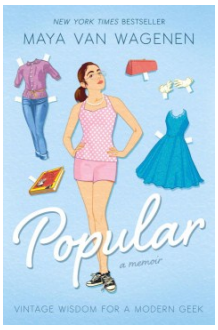
Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories of Growing up Scieszka
Jon Scieszka

Babysitting mishaps, lazy summer days by the lake, and silly childhood pranks are remembered in this amusing memoir.



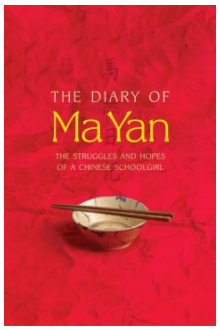
They Called Us Enemy
George Takei

Actor, author, and activist George Takei recounts his childhood being imprisoned within American concentration camps for Japanese Americans.



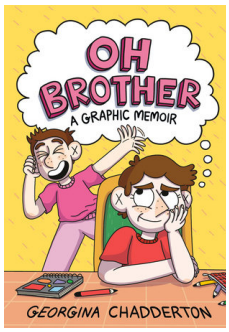
Popular: A Memoir: Vintage Wisdom from a Modern Geek
Maya Van Wagenen

Documents a high school student's year-long attempt to change her social status from that of a misfit to a member of the "in" crowd.



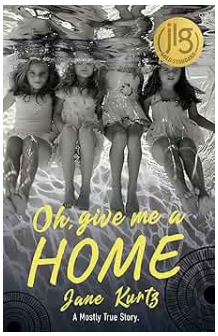
The Diary of Ma Yan: The Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl
Ma Yan

Ma Yan's diary describes her struggles to attend school in a drought-stricken corner of rural China.



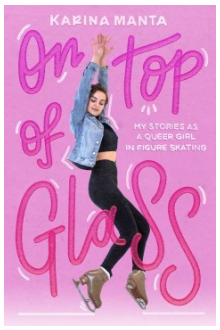
Oh Brother: A Graphic Memoir
Georgina Chadderton

Gina Chadderton examines the fun and difficult parts of growing up alongside their autistic and nonverbal brother.



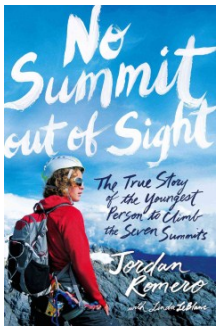
Oh, Give Me a Home
Jane Kurtz

A memoir in verse in which the author relates her experience growing up in Ethiopia and the cultural adjustment she experienced after moving back to America.



On Top of Glass: Stories of a Queer Girl in Figure Skating
Karina Manta

Manta shares her struggles with not only queerness but also body image, panic attacks, first crushes and feeling different than everybody around her.



No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits
Jordan Romero

At age 13, Romero became the youngest person ever to reach the summit of Mount Everest.



No Better Friend: Young Readers Edition: A Man, A Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War II
Robert Weintraub

The incredible true story of Frank Williams, a radarman in Britain's Royal Air Force, and Judy, a purebred pointer, who met as prisoners of war during World War II.

Source: Novelist K-8 Plus