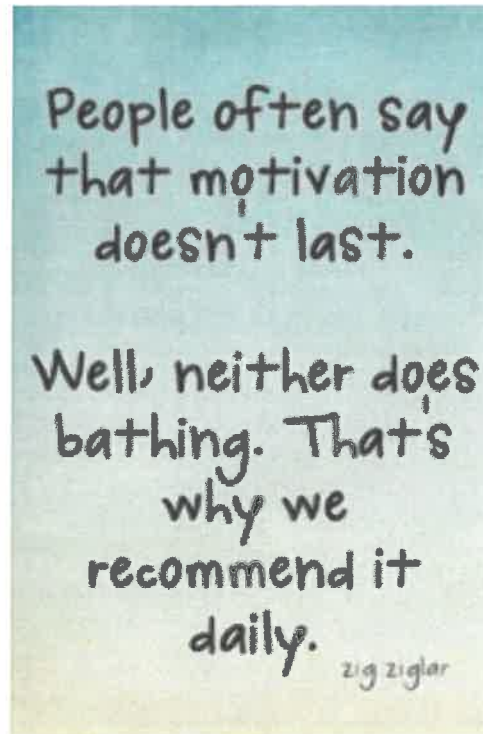


Rising 8th Graders



I'm not going to lie to you guys, we have work to do. In order to prepare

ALL STUDENTS IN 8TH GRADE MUST READ BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
2. One book from the book list attached at the end of the packet.

Please note: Some of the books contain young adult or adult themes. Parents are highly encouraged to evaluate, approve, and even read the choices made by their children. If you have any questions or need a recommendation for your child based on his or her reading preferences, please email me at the following email address: bbruhnke@lfno.org.

Assignment #1 Active Reading Analysis:

For all books, students need to show evidence of ACTIVE READING. This includes writing in the books themselves, highlighting important passages and vocabulary words, and using sticky notes to summarize chapters. Upon returning to school in August, books will be checked for evidence of Active Reading and other activities and assessments will be given in class. Books are to be read and evidence of active reading is due the first day you return to school in August.

It is not necessary for students to purchase copies of these books. Library copies, with sticky notes for active reading, are acceptable. Attached in the packet is an explanation of what is expected for Active Reading and a rubric that shows how it will be graded.

Assignment #2: Rubric for Book Review Podcast

Your mission should you choose receive a grade

1. Choose a novel out of the option list in the Summer Reading Packet. Know yourself. If you do not read quickly, do not choose a 300 page book. There are plenty of worthwhile novels that are not that lengthy.
2. Write a book review (two paragraphs see rubric below). See an example on the back of this rubric.
3. Create the podcast of your book review using GarageBand (Free on Mac) or Audacity (Free on PC). These podcasts will be placed on my Google Classroom and hopefully the Lycée site to promote books and literacy. Create something you would proudly share with the community. So, in order to do that, you might have to do this really crazy thing called "practice". You will need to practice reading your review aloud so that it sounds natural. Tone and inflection matter! The files will need to be emailed to me at the following email address: bbruhnke@lfno.org.
4. When turning in the assignment: Create folder on your desktop with the audio file (convert the audio to an mp3, if you need help doing that, email me **WAY BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENT IS DUE!**) and a picture of the bookcover. Name your folder with your last name, first name, and the title of the book. **NO TITLE NO UPLOAD!!!**
5. **DUE DATE: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

Rubric:

	Points possible			Points earned
Written book review includes:				
1. Engaging opener	3	2	1	-----
2. Details about character, setting, plot without revealing the conclusion of the book	3	2	1	-----
3. Discuss a major theme that can be derived from the book and use textual evidence from the story to back it up.	3	2	1	-----
4. Features correct, grammar, spelling, and punctuation	3	2	1	-----
5. Book review offers at least one opinion or recommendation.	3	2	1	-----
Podcast				
6. Podcast sounds polished with no cut jumps	3	2	1	-----
7. Podcast lasts a minimum of 3 minutes maximum of 8 minutes.	3	2	1	-----
8. Voice: words are pronounced correctly	3	2	1	-----
9. Voice: Tone and inflection engage the listener	3	2	1	-----
10. Creativity	3	2	1	-----
	30			-----

8th Grade English - Mr. Ben

Active Reading. What is Active Reading?

Reading is more than just knowing what you read; it is also about feeling and connecting with the text. What you feel about the story is just as important as what you remember. Good readers often have strong feelings about what they read, both positive and negative. They are ENGAGED!

Visualize: Describe the images you see as the author describes them. Use the details from the text to create the “movie in your mind.”

Clarify: STOP AND PAY ATTENTION. Summarize/explain what you have read. This is a great place to stop and check whether you understand the text. Read on (and sometimes even reread) and your understanding may change and develop. When you find the answers to any questions you have had, note them in the text.

Question: Ask questions about the text. What are you confused by? What is motivating the character(s)? Why are certain things happening? Why do you like/dislike something?

Predict: Try to figure out what will happen next and how the selection might end. What clues can you find, foreshadowing, etc? Then read on to see how accurate your guesses are.

Connect: Connect personally with what you are reading. Think of similarities between the descriptions in the selection and what you have personally experienced, seen, and heard or read about. Also, connect to anything you may have already read or seen in media (movies, news broadcasts, newspapers, magazines, Internet).

Evaluate: Form opinions about what you’ve read, both while you’re reading and after you’ve finished. Develop your own ideas about characters and events. Make a logical guess or come to a conclusion based from the story or text.

****If you are not enjoying the text or do not like the style, be critical: figure out exactly what you do not like and why. If you are bored (often a symptom of confusion), try to find a way to connect to the text in a way that makes sense for you -- put yourself in the story, read aloud for a bit, or re-envision it in present times; make a note; move on.****

	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Questioning	Reader is not questioning the text.	Reader rarely uses questioning as a reading strategy.	Reader asks weak questions that do not indicate engagement with text.	Reader asks some insightful questions that nevertheless indicate engagement with text.	Reader asks a variety of insightful questions indicating a high level of engagement with text.
Predicting	Reader does not make predictions.	Reader rarely uses predicting as a reading strategy.	Reader makes weak predictions that do not enhance engagement with text.	Reader makes adequate predictions that nevertheless indicate engagement with text.	Reader makes many thoughtful predictions both before and during reading indicating engagement with text.
Connecting (Text-to-Self)	N/A	Reader makes inadequate text-to-self connections while reading.	Reader makes faulty or vague text-to-self connections that indicate shallow understanding of the text.	Reader makes some insightful connections, but understanding of the text is evident. Insight is not always original.	Reader makes a variety of insightful connections that show a high level of understanding and engagement with text.
Connecting (Text-to-Text or Text-to-World)	N/A	Reader makes inadequate text-to-text or text-to-world connections while reading.	Reader makes faulty or vague text-to-text or text-to-world connections that indicate shallow understanding of the text.	Reader makes some insightful connections, but understanding of the text is evident.	Reader makes a variety of insightful connections that show a high level of understanding and engagement with text.
Understanding Purpose/Theme	Student has not completed assignment and has no understanding of purpose.	Reader is rarely able to identify author's purpose or theme(s).	Reader shows shallow or inconsistent understanding of the author's purpose and theme(s).	Reader shows general understanding of the author's purpose and theme(s).	Reader shows full understanding of the author's purpose and theme(s).

BOOK REVIEW PODCAST STORYBOARD TEMPLATE AND INSTRUCTIONS

BOOK REVIEW STORYBOARD TEMPLATE		
15-20 SECONDS	<p><MUSIC> <u>INTRODUCTION TO PODCAST</u></p> <p>IN THIS PORTION OF YOUR SCRIPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTRODUCE THIS PODCAST SEGMENT • INTRODUCE YOURSELF (FIRST NAME ONLY) 	<p>Hello and welcome to _____ Book Reviews where students and teachers talk about books.</p>
10-15 SECONDS	<p><u>INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK YOU ARE REVIEWING</u></p> <p>IN THIS PORTION OF YOUR SCRIPT INTRODUCE THE BOOK AND AUTHOR. INCLUDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TITLE • AUTHOR • GENRE • # OF PAGES • "MOVIE TRAILER" STATEMENT ABOUT THE BOOK ("A FAST PACED THRILLER", OR "A FIRE SIDE READ") USE ADJECTIVES. 	
15-30 SECONDS	<p><u>OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK</u></p> <p>WITHOUT SPOILING THE ENDING FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD READ THIS BOOK NEXT, PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY. DON'T GIVE A CHAPTER BY CHAPTER SUMMARY JUST PROVIDE ENOUGH BACKGROUND SO THE LISTENER GETS THE IDEA.</p>	
1 – 2 MINUTES	<p><u>REVIEW THE STYLE OF WRITING</u></p> <p>CRITIQUE THE STYLE OF WRITING BY THE AUTHOR</p> <p>YOU MAY WANT TO COVER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING OR MAYBE JUST DISCUSS A FEW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DID THE AUTHOR HOOK YOU IMMEDIATELY OR DID IT TAKE YOU 	

	<p>AWHILE TO GET INTO THE STORY? (PROVIDE A SPECIFIC TEXT EXAMPLE OF WHAT DREW YOU IN OR MADE IT DIFFICULT). USE A WORD LIKE "BECAUSE"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARE THE CHARACTERS WELL DEVELOPED AND DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU KNOW THEM? ARE THEY LIKEABLE OR DO YOU HATE THEM? • CAN YOU IMAGINE THE SETTING CLEARLY OR DO YOU STRUGGLE TO GET A PICTURE OF WHERE THE STORY IS TAKING PLACE? • IS THE VOCABULARY OF THE TEXT EASILY UNDERSTOOD, CHALLENGING, OR CONFUSING? (PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE TO SUPPORT YOUR OPINION) 	
15 -30 SECONDS	<p><u>YOUR HONEST RECOMMENDATION</u></p> <p>WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS TITLE? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHO MIGHT ENJOY THIS BOOK?</p>	
10 – 15 SECONDS	<p>CONCLUDE THE PODCAST THANK THE LISTENER AND TELL THEM AGAIN THAT THIS HAS BEEN A PODCAST REVIEW OF (YOUR TITLE) BY (YOUR AUTHOR)</p>	

TO HEAR SAMPLE BOOK REVIEW PODCASTS:

[HTTP://BOOKREVIEWS.PODOMATIC.COM/](http://bookreviews.podomatic.com/)

[HTTP://READINGINACTION.ORG/](http://readinginaction.org/)

[HTTP://JUSTONEMOREBOOK.COM](http://justonemorebook.com)

Vacation reads for 8th graders

Older kids will discover magic, romance, and culture clash with these entrancing summertime reads.

by: *GreatSchools Staff* (<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/author/greatschoolsstaff/>)

A Study in Charlotte

by: *Brittany Cavallaro* - (Harper Collins, 2016) 336 pages.

Written by the poet Brittany Cavallaro, this sharply smart book reimagines the Sherlock Holmes-John Watson dynamic as a prickly romance between Charlotte Holmes and Jamie Watson — both descendents of the famous duo — when they meet at a modern-day Connecticut boarding school, with a diabolical crime to solve.

Perfect for: YA readers who appreciate the unexpected.

Find *A Study in Charlotte* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/study-in-charlotte-a-charlotte-holmes-novel/oclc/910983809&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

How I Live Now

by: *Meg Rosoff* - (Wendy Lamb Books, 2006) 194 pages.

Daisy is a troubled New York City teenager with a distant father and a wicked stepmother she calls "Davina the Diabolical." When she is sent to London to stay with an aunt and cousins she's never met, hostile enemies invade England. Her aunt goes abroad on a peace mission, while Daisy and her three cousins, with whom she forges a remarkable relationship, must survive on their own. This poignant story is told in an honest, first-person narrative and filled with humor, love, and the carnage of war. Timely subject matter for today's teens.

Perfect for: Kids who like war stories.

Find *How I Live Now* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/how-i-live-now/oclc/54858093&referer=brief_results) at your local library.



Magic or Madness

by: *Justine Larbalestier* - (Sleuth RazorBill, 2006) 304 pages.

Australian author Justine Larbalestier has woven magic in this, the first book in a trilogy. Reason Cansino has lived her life on the run, frequently moving with her mother to avoid the evil witchcraft of her grandmother, Esmeralda. When Reason is sent to live with her grandmother, due to her mother's mental illness, she begins to think about the things she's been told. Is her grandmother really practicing magic? Why have nearly all her relatives died so young? When she runs away, halfway around the world to New York City, Reason finds solace with a new friend, Jay-Tee. This compelling fantasy story is about forging your own identity. *Magic or Madness* can stand alone, but teen readers will be anxious to finish the whole trilogy this summer.

Perfect for: Kids who like fantasy stories.

Find *Magic or Madness* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/magic-or-madness/oclc/56386932&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

The True Adventures of Nicolo Zen

by: *Nicholas Christopher* - (Ember, 2015) 288 pages.

Nicolo is a penniless orphan when he takes to the streets of 16th-century Venice with his magic clarinet. He becomes famous for his playing, falls in love, and meets the magician who enchanted his instrument in this moody and dramatic story of a boy's coming of age.

Perfect for: Musicians and history lovers.

Find *The True Adventures of Nicolo Zen* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/true-adventures-of-nicolo-zen/oclc/900594418&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

American Born Chinese

by: *Gene Luen Yang* - (Square Fish, 2006) 240 pages.

Great!
SCHOOLS.org

Told in graphic novel form, *American Born Chinese* juggles themes of self-image, cultural identity, peer pressure, and self-acceptance. In a series of three connected tales, the central characters are introduced: Jin Wang, a socially isolated teenager who has recently moved from San Francisco's Chinatown to an exclusive white suburb; Danny, a popular blond, blue-eyed high school jock; and the Monkey King from Chinese mythology. Their stories unite into a wonderful novel that is funny and truly poignant. Gene Luen Yang's amazing illustrations perfectly complement the narrative. Winner of the 2007 Michael L. Printz Award, *American Born Chinese* will resonant with all types of readers.

Perfect for: Kids who likes to learn about other cultures.

Find *American Born Chinese* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/american-born-chinese/oclc/63295041&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Looking for Alaska

by: *John Green* - (Speak, 2006) 221 pages.

John Green is simply the wittiest, coolest author of young adult novels writing today. A former commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered*, Green's two books and his website (<http://johngreenbooks.com/>) have received accolades from almost every source imaginable. I can't envision a summer without one of his amazing books in my beach bag, even if it's to reread it for the fourth time. *Looking For Alaska* was his first published book. It won the Michael L. Printz Award and the School Library Journal Best Book of the Year for its honest portrayal of 16-year-old Miles Halter, who is trying to reinvent himself and fit in at his new boarding school. He finds new worlds to explore: friendship, romance, self-awareness and mischief. I can't think of better way to praise this book than just to say, "I laughed, I cried, I reread, I loaned it to friends."

Perfect for: Kids who like schools.

Find *Looking for Alaska* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/looking-for-alaska-a-novel/oclc/55633822&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Just Listen

Great!
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by: *Sarah Dessen* - (Puffin Books, 2008) 400 pages.

Sarah Dessen is known for her ability to write with incredible accuracy and empathy about common teen concerns. *Just Listen* is no exception — she continues her winning streak with this story of a teenage model who seems to have everything, but the surface belies the true pain underneath. A compelling look at the two most significant influences in the lives of teen girls — friends and family — *Just Listen* is the ideal read this summer for a teen who has struggled socially at school.

Perfect for: Girls who struggle making friends.

Find *Just Listen* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/just-listen-a-novel/oclc/63519077&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Beautiful Creatures series

by: *Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl* - (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010) 592 pages.

The hook: When Lena moves to his small Southern town, Ethan realizes that this mysterious, outcast girl has been the subject of his dreams for months. Irresistibly drawn to Lena, Ethan discovers that the two are psychically connected. Together they race to discover the secrets behind the dark curse that looms over her family. The first in a four-book series, this story will be a hit with tweens and teens who appreciate star-crossed, supernatural romance.

Want to see the movie? Check out the 2013 adaptation, which follows the first book in the series.

Perfect for: Teens who liked *Twilight*.

Find **our favorites** at your local library: *Beautiful Creatures* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/beautiful-creatures/oclc/289095890&referer=brief_results), *Beautiful Darkness* (<https://www.worldcat.org/title/beautiful->

darkness/oclc/841011885&referer=brief_results), *Beautiful Redemption*
(https://www.worldcat.org/title/beautiful-redemption/oclc/777656171&referer=brief_results).
Great! (1)
SCHOOLS.org

Kidnapped

by: *Robert Louis Stevenson* - (Bantam, 1982) 288 pages.

David Balfour, a 17-year-old Scottish orphan, discovers he's the legitimate heir to the House of Shaws. His evil uncle Ebenezer wants the fortune for himself, so he hires a ship captain to kidnap the lad and sell him into slavery in the Carolinas. When the boat crashes in the Hebrides, David escapes with a French daredevil who helps him return home after multiple escapades in the wild Highlands. Packed with clan intrigue, Scotch dialect, bagpipes, danger, and romance.

Perfect for: Young adults who love coming-of-age stories set in different eras.

Find *Kidnapped*

(https://www.worldcat.org/title/kidnapped/oclc/314527904&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Fangirl

by: *Rainbow Rowell* - (St. Martin's Griffin, 2013) 448 pages.

Fangirl draws you into Cath's collegiate coming-of-age tale in a slice-of-life with a twist. Plagued by high anxiety, Cath shrinks at the thought of new people and situations. But just as she gets to college, her twin (and BFF) abandons her. Luckily her relationship with fictional Harry Potter-like character Simon Snow has made her the most popular fanfic writer online. Cath can handle Simon, but can she handle two real boys, a bipolar father, an absentee mother, and a sister who has embraced college life with gusto and perhaps ouzo?

Perfect for: Teens who love a character-driven story and seeing how people adjust to change and challenges.

Find *Fangirl*

Great!
schools.org

(https://www.worldcat.org/title/fangirl/oclc/327256917&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Shiver

by: *Maggie Stiefvater* - (Scholastic Press, 2009) 416 pages.

This is the story of a romance between a girl and a werewolf. Grace falls for a yellow-eyed werewolf named Sam, who was transformed after being bitten by another werewolf, but their love is threatened because soon Sam will lose the ability to become human. A shiver-worthy fantasy! Find *Shiver*

(https://www.worldcat.org/title/shiver/oclc/314377519&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

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History books for 8th graders

Volatile times and fascinating people — from Benedict Arnold to Eleanor Roosevelt — make for entertaining and educational reading this year.

by: *Hank Pellissier* (<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/author/hankpellissier/>)

Al Capone and the Roaring Twenties

by: *David C. King* - (Blackbirch Press, 1998) 80 pages.

America's most notorious gangster thrived in the wild-and-loose atmosphere of the Prohibition Era. This entertaining biography of Al Capone (1899-1947) — aka "Scarface" and "Public Enemy #1" — tells the story of a strong boy with huge fists who joined his first criminal organization in Brooklyn after sixth grade. By age 26 he was a Chicago gang leader; he became a national celebrity for his skill at bootlegging (smuggling alcohol) and taking out rivals with machine guns. Eventually he was captured by FBI agents and subsequently imprisoned — but not for murder. The lifestyle of the Roaring '20s is examined, with attention given to iconic inventions such as the Model T and the vacuum cleaner. It includes black-and-white photos and website references.

Perfect for: Fans of the Roaring '20s, those curious about this period that heralded a modern age, and kids interesting in biographies of "bad guys."

Find *Al Capone and the Roaring Twenties* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/al-capone-and-the-roaring-twenties/oclc/38732154&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery

by: *Russell Freedman* - (HMH Books for Young Readers, 1997) 208 pages.

Eleanor Roosevelt's inspirational life is examined, from her unhappy childhood to her marriage to her fifth cousin to her years as First Lady to her multiple contributions to the United Nations. Her maturation from an insecure, orphaned young girl to an

eloquent humanitarian and activist for peace, justice, racial equality, and prosperity is emphasized in down-to-earth prose that reflects the subject's straightforward personality. The intimate portrayal also discusses Eleanor's reaction to FDR's infidelity and her encouragement for him to stay in politics despite his polio disability. Diary entries, 140 photographs, newspaper articles, and abundant quotes complete the story.

Perfect for: Readers who like to see women rise to success, those who are socially conscientious, and those needing a female inspiration.

Find *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/eleanor-roosevelt-a-life-of-discovery/oclc/26302438&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbon: The Story of Phillis Wheatley

by: *Ann Rinaldi* - (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2005) 352 pages.

In 1761 a young African girl, Keziah, was kidnapped from her village in Senegal, shipped to Massachusetts, and sold as a slave. Her owners, the Wheatleys, decide to rename her, educate her, and encourage her writing. Eventually Phillis amazes America when she becomes the new nation's first published black poet. This entertaining book is well researched but heavily embellished with fiction; at the end the author reveals what did, and did not, actually happen. It does provide insights into slavery, New England colonial life, creativity, and even romance.

Perfect for: Teens interested in early American history, particularly the Revolutionary War and slavery, and those interested in poets and poetry.

Find *Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbon: The Story of Phillis Wheatley* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/hang-a-thousand-trees-with-ribbons-the-story-of-phillis-wheatley/oclc/34150871&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Farewell to Manzanar

by: *Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston* - (Ember, 2012) 240 pages.

Seven-year-old Jeanne Wakatsuki and her family were removed from their California home in 1942 and imprisoned in the Manzanar internment camp, a humiliating “desert ghetto.” More than 110,000 other Japanese-Americans suffered the same fate after Pearl Harbor because of national fears they would aid the new enemy. This poignant memoir offers delightful child’s eye details and insights on life in the camp. Even with barbed wire and armed guards, there were still sock hops, sports teams, and cheerleaders. However, the story recounts the family’s difficulty in rebuilding their lives after the war, the narrator’s awkward experiences attending an all-white school, and the disintegration of Japanese traditions in the family.

Perfect for: World War II aficionados, those interested in the Japanese-American experience during the war, those seeking a different perspective and angle on the time period.

Find *Farewell to Manzanar* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/farewell-to-manzanar-a-true-story-of-japanese-american-experience-during-and-after-the-world-war-ii-internment/oclc/673358&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

The Mexican Revolution

by: *Louise Chipley Slavicek* - (Chelsea House Publishers, 2011) 127 pages.

Rousing chronicle of the most violent uprising in the history of Latin America. In 1910 the Mexican Revolution broke out, with peasants, workers, and political reformers collaborating to overthrow the dictator, Porfirio Diaz, in only six months. A bloody decade of turmoil followed, as generals, ex-bandits, agrarian radicals, and wealthy oligarchs fought for control. More than 1 million Mexicans died in the chaos, and the nation’s economy was destroyed. But the revolution successfully imposed the largest redistribution of land in the hemisphere’s history. Major characters in the conflict are presented in this concise but thorough account —Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa, Francisco Madero, Alvaro Obregon, Venustiano Carranza, and Victoriano Huerta (“The Jackal”).

Perfect for: Anyone interested in Mexican history or fascinated by revolts for social reform.

Find *The Mexican Revolution* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/mexican-revolution/oclc/606772006&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer

by: *James L. Swanson* - (Scholastic Press, 2009) 208 pages.

Engrossing account of John Wilkes Booth's 12 days of flight after assassinating President Lincoln. Aided by multiple co-conspirators, the killer eludes his pursuers in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, until he's finally surrounded and shot to death in a burning barn. Offers hour-by-hour reportage, with period details, and in-depth analysis of the murderous team's motivations. Amazing, little-known facts are presented, such as Lincoln's vice president and secretary of state were also targeted, and the original plan was to kidnap Lincoln. Archival photographs and abundant quotes from witnesses and relatives of the conspirators make the story more robust.

Perfect for: Civil War buffs and kids interested in a chase story, a thriller, a procedural drama.

Find *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/chasing-lincolns-killer/oclc/226308128&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery

by: *Steve Sheinkin* - (Square Fish, 2013) 368 pages.

This fascinating portrait of Benedict Arnold provides insight into the brilliant, heroic Revolutionary War general who switched sides to become America's first and most hated traitor. The story is packed with heart-racing battle scenes, bizarre twists of fate, and objective, intriguing explanations for Arnold's betrayal. It paints a picture of a great man flawed by greed and ego.

Perfect for: Kids fond of adventure stories, "bad guy" biographies, and the birth of the United States.

Find *The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/notorious-benedict-arnold-a-true-story-of-adventure-heroism-treachery/oclc/606786088&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

Gandhi, Great Soul

by: *John B. Severance* - (Clarion Books, 1997) 144 pages.

This biography of Mohandas K. Gandhi examines his dedication to liberating India's 350 million people from British colonial rule. It looks at his nonviolent (satyagraha) philosophy, his non-materialism, his concern for the poor, his education in England, his formative experiences in South Africa, and his numerous arrests, demonstrations, and hunger strikes. How he influenced later activists such as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr. is also discussed. The book does not ignore criticisms the revered Mahatma received; for example, Gandhi's wife remained illiterate all her life, and his sons claimed they were under-educated.

Perfect for: Anyone interested in social activist leadership, nonviolence as a philosophy and activism tool, and those interested in India's history.

Find *Gandhi, Great Soul* (https://www.worldcat.org/title/gandhi-great-soul/oclc/32970220&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War

by: *Philip Caputo* - (Anthem Books for Young Readers, 2005) 128 pages.

This is an exciting chronology of the violent combat in Southeast Asia, from French colonial rule and the rise of Communism to the Tet Offensive and the Fall of Saigon. Antiwar riots in the U.S. are addressed, plus intriguing details are included on "tunnel rats," Agent Orange, and the participation of women on the battlefield. Shocking statistics are presented: for instance, the U.S. Air Force dropped 6.2 tons of bombs on the small nation, almost three times the total bombs they dropped during World War II. Personal anecdotes from GIs and Viet Cong give a deeper look at the period, as do profiles of leaders (Ho Chi Minh, President Richard Nixon, Gen. William Westmoreland). Plus the book includes photographs, maps, a glossary and a bibliography. It is an accessible, articulate introduction to the "most unpopular war in U.S. history."



Perfect for: Kids curious about more modern U.S. history, those curious about the Vietnam War, and grandchildren (and great-grandchildren) of veterans.

Find *10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War*

(https://www.worldcat.org/title/10000-days-of-thunder-a-history-of-the-vietnam-war/oclc/55846688&referer=brief_results) at your local library.

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