

Suggested Biographies for the Lane School 3rd-4th Grade Summer Reading

Want more suggestions? Ask a librarian!

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### *Wild Ride: My Journey from Cancer Kid to Astronaut*

J Bio Arceneaux Hayley

Hayley Arceneaux's memoir details her "wild ride" from undergoing cancer treatment as a child, to becoming a physician assistant, to becoming an astronaut who traveled into space. Check out this amazing story of finding your life's purpose. (182 pages).

### *Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life*

J Bio Artists Pinkney

Legendary illustrator Jerry Pinkney reveals how his early years shaped him. Drawing helped him cope with a learning disability, discrimination, and the stress of growing up. This unique memoir includes both fun, vivid childhood anecdotes and more serious reflections on the role of art in society. (141 pages).

### *Epic Athletes: Simone Biles*

J Bio Athletes Biles

Learn all about Simone Biles's rise to become one of the greatest athletes of all time. This sensitively-told story about perseverance and passion will have your cheering! (141 pages).

### *42 Is Not Just a Number*

J Bio Athletes Robinson

Learn about Jackie Robinson's journey to integrate Major League Baseball, as well as change American culture forever. (94 pages).

### *Never Caught, The Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington's Courageous Slave Who Dared To Run Away*

J Bio Judge Ona

Born into a life of slavery, Ona Judge risked everything to flee toward freedom. Full of rich emotional and historical detail, this book tracks her life from her birth at Mount Vernon to her eventual escape. (233 pages).

### *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round: My Story of the making of Martin Luther King Day*

J Bio Kirkwood

Kathlyn J. Kirkwood's memoir in verse tells the story of her years of activism, starting when she was a teenager, to make Martin Luther King Jr's birthday a national holiday. Includes illustrations and reproductions of primary historical sources. (114 pages)

### *Just a Girl: A True Story of World War II*

J Bio Levi Lia

Lia Levi's memoir is the captivating story of her experiences in Italy under Mussolini's rule. As a Jewish child, she was forced to go into hiding in a Catholic boarding school. The text is written in a child's clear voice, with some illustrations and photos at the end. (130 pages).

*Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini*

J Bio Performers Houdini

- The unbelievable story of the man no jail cell could hold (202 pages).

*Don't Know Much About: George Washington*

J Bio Politicians Washington

This book is chock-full of information about America's first president and the historical times he lived in. It breaks down many common myths to give readers a sense of what George Washington's life was actually like. (118 pages).

*Sally Ride: A Photobiography of America's Pioneering Woman in Space*

J Bio Ride Sally

- A warm biography of the first woman in space, as well as her post-NASA career as a science educator; written by her life partner (140 pages).

*All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World*

J Bio Scientists Leeuwenhoek

How did an ordinary cloth tradesman in the 17th century discover microbes and prove to the world that they were real? This delightful biography shows that anyone with curiosity about the world can be a scientist. (77 pages).

*I Begin with Spring: The Life and Seasons of Henry David Thoreau*

J Bio Writers Thoreau

This biography, formatted like a nature journal, takes the reader through Henry David Thoreau's fascinating life as a naturalist and writer, as well as his relationship to the transcendentalist and abolitionist movements (96 pages).

**Life Stories Series:** From DK Books, these biographies (around 100 pages plus back matter like time lines and glossaries) of some of history's most influential figures are full of full-color photos, text boxes, and all the context you need to get hooked.

*Leonardo da Vinci*

J Bio Artists Da Vinci

*Amelia Earhart*

J Bio Earhart Amelia

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

J Bio King Martin Luther

And more! Ask for assistance in locating additional books in this series.

**Magic Tree House Fact Trackers:** These books were written as companions to the fictional Magic Tree House books, but can be read as nonfiction standalones. At a little over 100 pages, these would be great for kids who already love the Magic Tree House books.

*Benjamin Franklin*

J Bio Franklin Benjamin

Abraham Lincoln

J Bio Politicians Lincoln

**She Persisted Series:** Each book in this series tells the story of a trailblazing American woman. Coming in at under 50 pages, these are perfect for readers who want a shorter read but a great story.

*Ruby Bridges*

J Bio Bridges Ruby

*Claudette Colvin*

J Bio Colvin Claudette

*Clara Lemlich*

J Bio Lemlich Clara

And more! Ask for assistance in locating additional books in this series.