

The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary

by Candace Fleming (JfB L638fL)

Though Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln's backgrounds differed considerably, both were intellectuals who shared interests in literature and politics, as well as a great love for each other.

Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out

by The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance (Jf917.53 Ou78)

Presents a compilation of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry about the White House in each period of American history.

Tiger Woods: Golf's Master

by Jeremy Roberts (J796.352 W867r)

An introduction to the life and career of the golf pro Tiger Woods.



The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West

by Sid Fleischman (JB T911f)

Here, in high style, is the story of a wisecracking adventurer who came of age in the untamed West – a rebel who surprised himself by becoming the most famous American of his time.

Two Miserable Presidents: Everything Your School Books Didn't Tell You About the Civil War

by Steve Sheinkin (J973.7 Sh42t)

A narrative history of the United States provides the funny, fascinating, and thoroughly compelling bits that played a part in the start of the Civil War, from the Congressional confrontations to the personal issues that threatened America's very existence.



Washington at Valley Forge

by Russell Freedman (J973.33 F875w)

Washington's army nearly perished during the winter of 1777-78. Camped at Valley Forge, the revolutionaries endured severe hardship. The army's supply system had collapsed and they were without supplies. But when the harsh winter ended, the soldiers had survived, and marched away from Valley Forge more determined than ever.

The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body

by David Macaulay (Jf612 M119w)

Explores the complex inner workings of the human body in a visual study of anatomy and physiology that ranges from the cells that form the building blocks of the body, to the individual organs and systems and how they function.



What the World Eats

by Peter Menzel (J641.3 M529w)

A photographic collection exploring what the world eats featuring portraits of twenty-five families from twenty-one countries surrounded by a week's worth of food.

When Objects Talk: Solving a Crime with Science

by Mark P. Friedlander (J363.25 F913w)

Looks at criminal investigation and the use of forensic science to gather clues and apprehend criminals.

Summer 2009 list

compiled by Burlingame Public Library librarians.



Burlingame Public Library

SUMMER READING

Recommendations

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Fiction

Chains: Seeds of America

by Laurie Halse Anderson (J Fiction)

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.



The Compound

by S.A. Bodeen (YA Fiction)

After his parents, two sisters, and he have spent six years in a vast underground compound built by his wealthy father to protect them from a nuclear holocaust, fifteen-year-old Eli, whose twin brother and grandmother were left behind, discovers that his father has perpetrated a monstrous hoax on them all.

The Dragonfly Pool

by Eva Ibbotson (J Fiction)

Tally, a twelve-year-old English girl, and her classmates at Delderton, a progressive boarding school, help Karil, the young prince of Bergania, escape into England after the Nazis invade Bergania and kill the king.

The Eye of the Crow

by Shane Peacock (YA Fiction)

A woman is found stabbed to death in London. A young boy is drawn to the scene to investigate the murder and becomes a suspect himself.

The Green Glass Sea

by Ellen Klages (J Fiction)

It is 1943, and 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is traveling west on a train to live with her scientist father-but no one will tell her exactly where he is. When she reaches Los Alamos, New Mexico, she learns why: he's working on a top secret government program. [Meet this author in September when she visits the Burlingame Public Library.]

The Graveyard Book

by Neil Gaiman (J Fiction)

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.



The Hound of Rowan

by Henry Neff (J Fiction)

After glimpsing a hint of his destiny in a mysterious tapestry, twelve-year-old Max McDaniels becomes a student at Rowan Academy, where he trains in "mystics and combat" in preparation for war with an ancient enemy that has been kidnapping children like him.

The Letter Writer: A Novel

by Ann Rinaldi (YA Fiction)

A young girl who serves as letter writer for her blind stepmother is haunted by her unwitting role in Nat Turner's Rebellion, one of the bloodiest slave uprisings in the history of America.

Lion Boy: The First Book in a Trilogy by Zizou Corder (J Fiction)

In the near future, a boy with the ability to speak the language of cats sets out from London to seek his kidnapped parents and finds himself on a Paris-bound circus ship learning to train lions.

No Cream Puffs by Karen Day (J Fiction)

In 1980, when twelve-year-old Madison, who loves to play baseball, decides to play in her town's baseball league, she never envisions the uproar it causes when she becomes the first girl to join.



On Rough Seas by Nancy L. Hull (J Fiction)

In Dover, England in 1940, fourteen-year-old Alec Curtis wants nothing more than to go to sea, to absolve himself of the guilt he feels over the earlier drowning of his cousin and to help the war effort, but when he sneaks aboard a small boat going across the English Channel to Dunkirk, his experience changes him forever.

One Small Step by Philip Kerr (J Fiction)

In 1969 Houston, Texas, thirteen-year-old Scott learns to fly from his father, an Air Force flight instructor, but when NASA needs him for a secret space mission, Scott's elation is tempered by concern that his mother, who has moved to Florida, will find out.

Peeled by Joan Bauer (YA Fiction)

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.



Scat by Carl Hiaasen (J Fiction)

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

The Secret of Laurel Oaks by Lois Ruby (J Fiction)

While staying with her family in Louisiana's Laurel Oaks Plantation, purported to be one of the most haunted places in America, thirteen-year-old Lila is contacted by the ghost of a slave girl unjustly convicted of murder. Story inspired by the author's visit to the Myrtles Plantation in Louisiana.

Tennyson by Lesley Blume (J Fiction)

After their mother abandons them during the Great Depression, eleven-year-old Tennyson Fontaine and her little sister Hattie are sent to live with their eccentric Aunt Henrietta in a decaying plantation house outside of New Orleans.

3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows by Ann Brashares (YA Fiction)

Ama, Jo, and Polly, three close friends from Bethesda, Maryland, spend the summer before ninth grade learning about themselves, their families, and the changing nature of their friendship.



Trouble by Gary Schmidt (YA Fiction)

Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion—the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin—and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

Tunnels by Roderick Gordon (J Fiction)

When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father.



White Sands, Red Menace by Ellen Klages (J Fiction)

It is 1946, and Dewey Kerrigan is now living near the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico with the Gordon family. Dewey and her "sister," Suze, share secrets, art, and science as they adjust to high school in an isolated desert town. Then, Dewey's long-lost mother, Rita Gallucci, reappears in their lives. [Meet this author in September when she visits the Burlingame Public Library.]

The Wild Girls by Pat Murphy (J Fiction)

When thirteen-year-old Joan moves to California in 1972, she becomes friends with Sarah, who is timid at school but an imaginative leader when they play in the woods, and after winning a writing contest together they are recruited for an exclusive summer writing class that gives them new insights into themselves and others.

Non-Fiction

Bill Gates: A Twentieth-Century Life by Marc Aronson (JB G223ar)

When Bill Gates was born in 1955, no one owned a personal computer. Gates envisioned what a computerized society could be and he set out to lead the way, building the Microsoft empire with single-minded drive. Today, the man who made his fortune by putting the whole world in touch now hopes to improve lives around the planet.

Dear First Lady: Letters to the White House: From the Collections of Library of Congress and National Archives by Dwight Young (J973.09 Y848d)

Drawn from the National Archives, a compelling assortment of correspondence collects letters, appearing as full-size facsimiles, written over the centuries to America's first ladies by both ordinary citizens and famous figures.



First Kids: the True Stories of All the Presidents' Children by Noah McCullough

(J973.099 M139f) True stories of all the Presidents' children.

I'll Pass for Your Comrade: Women Soldiers in the Civil War by Anita Silvey (J973.7 Si399i)

Sarah Emma Edmonds enlisted because she believed in the Union cause; Melverina Peppercorn joined to stay near her twin brother. Although women were not allowed to enlist as soldiers in the Civil War, many disguised themselves as men and fought anyway.