

2014 Outstanding Books for the College Bound and Lifelong Learners

The books included on this list open doors on new worlds, exciting ideas, eccentric personalities, unfamiliar cultures, and distant time periods. Use it to broaden your horizons as you prepare for college entrance exams and courses, to increase and update your knowledge in various subject areas, or to develop an appreciation for other cultures and times. Choose a title from a subject area that interests you or pick an area that you know little about; either way will deepen your understanding of the world.

In an effort to mirror the college experience, the 2014 list is divided into five academic disciplines: arts and humanities, history and cultures, literature and language arts, science and technology, and social sciences. It is a combination of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Titles were selected based on criteria including readability, racial and cultural diversity, balance of viewpoints, variety of formats and genres, and title availability. The committee also attempted to provide balance between modern classic titles and those that are newer or speak to current events.

A YALSA committee of public, secondary school, and academic librarians selected the 2014 list in collaboration with the [Association of College and Research Libraries](#) (ACRL). Revised every five years, this list is intended as a tool for several audiences: students preparing for college, parents, educators, and librarians.

Arts and Humanities

Beram, Nell and Boriss-Krimsky, Carolyn. *Yoko Ono: Collector of Skies*. 2013.

Many people know Yoko Ono's name, but they don't know her story. A musician, an artist, a performer, a writer, an activist, a mother, a wife, but most importantly—a collector of skies.

Beyer, Ramsey. *Little Fish: A Memoir from a Different Kind of Year*. 2013.

In this autobiographical tale told through a variety of formats, Beyer moves from a small town in Michigan to an art school in Baltimore. Original journal entries, lists, and comics are all used to recount the joys, discoveries, and challenges of her first year in college.

Blumenthal, Karen. *Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America*. 2005.

Although we take it for granted that girls play high school and college sports, this wasn't always the case. Who was responsible for the passage of Title IX, and at what cost? This fascinating chapter in the history of feminist equality is a story that should not be forgotten.

Bowker, John. *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored and Explained*. 2006.

This comprehensive and lavishly illustrated work introduces the reader to faiths of the world through religious artifacts, paintings, architecture, and annotations of sacred texts. It includes timelines comparing significant events and people.

Bryson, Bill. *Shakespeare: The Illustrated and Updated Edition*. 2009.

Bryson hits the mark with his characteristic wit as he explores the world of Shakespeare and the mystery surrounding the man and his plays.

Burr, Ty. *Gods Like Us: On Movie Stardom and Modern Fame*. 2012.

Why do we obsess about Hollywood and its stars? Burr's history of cinema and acting illuminates why we love—and sometimes love to hate—the idea of celebrity.

Chilvers, Ian, Iain Zaczek, and others. *Art That Changed the World*. 2013.

This beautiful and extensive collection examines the history of art. Organized chronologically, the combination of visuals and informative text is both approachable and easy to grasp.

de Heer, Margaret. *Philosophy: A Discovery in Comics*. 2012.

What is thinking? Who are we? Find out some theories in this fun graphic novel introduction to basic principles of philosophy and history of philosophers.

Feldstein, Peter, and Stephen Bloom. *The Oxford Project*. 2008.

In 1984, Feldstein took photos of everyone in the small Iowa town of Oxford. In 2004, he returned and did it again. Here are their photographs and stories.

Fey, Tina. *Bossypants*. 2011.

How did one of the funniest women in the world get to where she is? In Fey's own words, "you have to go down the chute."

Gevinson, Tavi. *Rookie Yearbook One*. 2012.

A refreshingly real and passionate handbook to music, movies, pop cultural icons, and getting through the hardest, most confusing years of your life.

Hartzler, Aaron. *Rapture Practice*. 2013.

How do you accept yourself and your beliefs when they differ from your family's? Hartzler's memoir of growing up gay in a house where his parents believed the Rapture could happen any moment is funny, honest, and respectful of the idea that being yourself doesn't mean disrespecting or undermining others.

Kleon, Austin. *Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Ever Told You About Being Creative*. 2012.

Creativity is for everyone, and everyone can be creative—and this guide to the process should keep you inspired.

Knisley, Lucy. *Relish: My Life in the Kitchen*. 2013.

Knisley's life has revolved around food in all its manifestations. This graphic memoir is perfect for those who live to eat or those who simply eat to live.

Kurlansky, Mark. *Ready for a Brand New Beat: How "Dancing in the Street" Became an Anthem for a Changing America*. 2013.

Kurlansky follows the creation and recording of the Motown record "Dancing in the Street" against the tumultuous period of racial integration and American politics.

Lee, Jennifer 8. *Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food*. 2008.

Mixing travel with social and food history, readers gain a better understanding of the Chinese-American experience and a better appreciation of their next meal at a Chinese restaurant.

Light, Alan. *The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah."* 2012.

What happens when artists perform their own version of a song? Follow the evolution of the song "Hallelujah" from its original version by Leonard Cohen to being featured in the movie *Shrek* to being performed on *American Idol* as a perennial audition song.

McCarry, Sarah. *All Our Pretty Songs*. 2013.

A modern retelling of the Orpheus myth where music and art mix with an undeniably loyal pair of best friends.

Mealer, Bryan. *Muck City: Winning and Losing in Football's Forgotten Town*. 2012.

In Belle Glade, Florida, a town rife with poverty and violence, high school football is more than a pastime. It's an escape.

Morgenstern, Erin. *The Night Circus*. 2011.

Just imagine a circus made of the stuff of dreams. Then add two cruel magicians and their protégés, and mix in a hearty dollop of romance. Will love win out, or will the circus drift away?

Quick, Matthew. *Boy21*. 2012.

When Finley's basketball coach asks him to look out for new kid Russ, he has no idea what's in store. Finley might be used to the racial conflict in his town and the pressures of basketball, but he is totally unprepared for Russ's strange request to be called "Boy21."

Rapkin, Mickey. *Theater Geek: The Real-Life Drama of a Summer at Stagedoor Manor, the Famous Performing Arts Camp.* 2010.

Rapkin follows the summer of three high school attendees of Stagedoor Manor—a renowned performing arts camp—as they prepare for various parts in Sondheim musicals.

Roose, Kevin. *The Unlikely Disciple: a Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University.* 2009.

Kevin Roose was a student at ultra-liberal Brown University when he decided to take a semester off to infiltrate a dorm at very conservative Liberty University to find out what really makes born-again Christians tick. He approached his task with an open mind, and what he learned was quite surprising.

Wilson, G. Willow. *The Butterfly Mosque.* 2010.

Taking an Islamic Studies course changes Wilson's life forever when she converts and moves to Cairo to teach English, submerging herself in her new culture. When she meets and falls in love with Omar, she's forced to question and strengthen her position as a woman embracing both Western and Eastern identities.

Zarr, Sara. *The Lucy Variations.* 2013.

Piano prodigy Lucy quit playing when she could no longer handle her family's pressure. Can she ever learn to find her love and passion for the music again on her own terms?

History and Cultures

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian.* 2007.

Born with water on the brain, Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, transfers to an all-white school off his reservation. He knows he won't easily fit in, but with self-determination and a solid personal identity, he has the chance to succeed.

Alsenas, Linas. *Gay America: Struggle for Equality.* 2008.

This work provides a chronological overview of public attitudes toward homosexuality throughout American history, as well as the experience of gay people during these prescriptive, restrictive, and even dangerous periods.

Anderson, Scott. *Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East.* 2013.

Lawrence was a player in a thrilling game of territorial machinations filled with deceit, spy craft, and dubious treaties. From World War I through the modern day, cultural clashes and fallout from these double-dealings are illuminated in this engaging history that uses the famous adventurer as its linchpin.

Brown, Daniel James. *The Boys in the Boat: 9 Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.* 2013.

Building to the suspense of a race won by seconds, this tale follows the nine young men who traveled from Seattle to Berlin to compete in crew at the spectacular and infamous Nazi Olympics.

Bryson, Bill. *At Home: A Short History of Private Life.* 2010.

Bill Bryson turns his eye for intriguing connections to exploring the history of the structure of the house from ancient times to recent innovations.

Chang, Iris. *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II.* 1998.

Barely a postscript in Japanese history, this book tells the story of the horrific torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens took place over the course of just seven weeks.

Demick, Barbara. *Nothing to Envy: Personal Lives in North Korea.* 2009.

Get a glimpse of what life is like in this oppressive and secretive nation through the lives of some ordinary people who managed to escape.

Diaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.* 2007.

A self-proclaimed "ghetto nerd," outcast and animé-loving Oscar Wao is the latest in a long line of doomed generations to suffer the dreaded fuku curse of his native Dominican Republic. With only humor

and talent as his weapons, he perseveres, knowing “you can never run away. Not ever. The only way out is in.”

Egan, Timothy. *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl.* 2006.

In this layered account of the great dust bowl, Egan shares incredible eyewitness accounts and explores the convergence of failed agricultural practices, ill-fated government policies, and the costs of “get rich quick” schemes.

French, Howard. *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and the Hope of Africa.* 2004.

To put it mildly, colonialism has not been kind to Africa. From rubber and diamonds to oil and coltan, it is a continent of fabulous natural resources that continues to be the focus of greed and exploitation. Part journalistic voyage, part memoir, this is an exploration of colonialism’s ongoing legacy.

Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold’s Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa.* 1998.

History echoes across time, and nowhere is this clearer than in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in central Africa. The brutality of Belgium’s colonial occupation of the Congo is a surprisingly unknown and ugly historical interlude and resulted in the first ever human rights campaign.

Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice.* 2009.

Months before the landmark 1955 Montgomery bus boycott began, one fifteen-year-old girl refused to give up her seat and became a key part of the legal battle to overturn segregation.

Kouno, Fumiyo, and Naoko Amemiya and Andy Nakatani, trans. *Town of Evening Calm, Country of Cherry Blossoms.* 2009.

A poignant and delicate look at the lingering effects during the weeks, years, and decades after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Kurlansky, Mark. *Salt: A World History.* 2003.

War. Empire. Revolution. Currency. Table salt? Explore the history of the world through this surprisingly complex condiment that has enabled exploration, caused wars, and driven empires.

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. *March: Book 1.* 2013.

This remarkable graphic memoir charts John Lewis’s progress from a young man preaching to his chickens to joining the nonviolent Civil Rights movement to his seat in the United States Congress.

Marable, Manning. *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention.* 2011.

A nuanced and thoughtful examination of a complex man who was both a powerful advocate for social change in America and a controversial public figure shrouded in competing myths.

Reiss, Tom. *The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo.* 2012.

Everyone knows *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*, but few realize the inspiration for these action-packed tales was Dumas’s own real-life hero: his father, a mixed-race soldier who rose to become a general in Napoleon’s army.

Sheinkin, Steve. *The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery.* Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

This action-packed story reveals how a Revolutionary War hero became the most famous traitor in American history.

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History.* 2007.

The historian to whom this oft-quoted maxim is attributed provides intriguing examples of women’s contributions to history.

Von Drehle, David. *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America.* 2003.

In 1911 New York, a fire in a shirtwaist factory staffed mostly by women trapped and killed 123 working there. Von Drehle uses this disaster as the focal point for a history of the rise of unions in the U.S. during this era.

Walker, Frank X. *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers*. 2013.

The tragedy of Evers's death is revealed through poems in the voice of his widow, brother, the wives of his killer, and the killer himself.

Wein, Elizabeth. *Code Name Verity*. 2012.

The Nazis catch a female spy during World War II in occupied France. To save her life, she slowly reveals her mission and in the process discloses the story of the relationship between herself and her best friend, whose life and mission become entwined with hers in the strong bonds of friendship and trust.

Wilson, G. Willow. *Alif the Unseen*. 2012.

In an unnamed Middle Eastern country, computer hacker Alif falls for the wrong girl and runs afoul of her fiancé, the vicious head of state security. The bigger problem is there is only one ally who can save him: a deadly world-weary jinni.

Wolf, Allan. *The Watch that Ends the Night*. 2011.

A retelling of the tragedy of the sinking of the Titanic, from many points of view, including all classes of people on the ship, telegraph messages, and even the iceberg itself.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States 1492-2001*. 2003.

A comprehensive history of the United States, from the impact of Columbus's and others' arrival in the New World through modern times. This is the history that is usually not told, about America's misuses of African Americans, Native Americans, and other traditionally disenfranchised groups

Literature and Language Arts

Avasthi, Swati. *Chasing Shadows*. 2013.

Corey, Holly, and Savitri act as one until a random act of violence destroys their group. Holly and Savitri must find their own way to deal with the tragedy without becoming undone.

Bray, Libba. *Going Bovine*. 2009.

When Cameron is diagnosed with Mad Cow Disease, he sets out on an adventure with a video game obsessed dwarf and a Viking god trapped in a yard gnome in the hopes of finding a cure.

Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*. , 2003.

Dana is torn away from her home in California and taken back in time to Antebellum South where she is a slave. Each time Dana is pulled into the past, her stay there grows longer and she fears that she might not survive.

Crystal, David. *Spell it Out: The Curious, Enthralling, and Extraordinary History of English Spelling*. 2013.

A fascinating and entertaining history of English spelling that also examines the evolution of writing, printing, and the language itself.

Fforde, Jasper. *The Eyre Affair*. 2002.

The first in a series set in a zany alternative Swindon, Thursday Next (Special Ops—Literary Division) is on the case when characters are kidnapped from their original manuscripts—potentially changing literature forever.

Garcia McCall, Guadalupe. *Under the Mesquite*. , 2011.

When Lupita's mother is diagnosed with cancer, it falls to Lupita to care for the rest of her Mexican-American family. In this free-verse novel, Lupita comes of age and finds strength in sharing her thoughts and opinions.

Giovanni, Nikki, ed. *100 Best African American Poems: (*But I Cheated)*. 2010.

This anthology, edited by award-winning poet Nikki Giovanni, contains more than one hundred poems by classic and contemporary African-American poets. Also included with the text is an audio CD with some selections of poetry read aloud.

Katcher, Brian. *Almost Perfect*. 2009.

Logan's friendship with Sage, the new girl at school, begins to evolve into more until she reveals her secret. This story of acceptance is not just about how we love, but the surprise of who we love.

Keillor, Garrison, ed. *Good Poems*. 2002.

Selected from Keillor's radio show, *The Writer's Almanac*, this anthology of both contemporary and classic poetry is the first in a set of three. Poems range from quirky to quaint and everyone is sure to find at least one favorite in this accessible collection.

King, A. S. *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*. 2010.

After her best friend Charlie's death, Vera Dietz struggles to stay anonymous when Charlie begins haunting her, demanding that she clear his name.

Levithan, David. *Lover's Dictionary*. 2011.

In simple dictionary entries a story of friendship, passion, and love comes to life.

Lewis, Catherine. *Thrice Told Tales: Three Mice Full of Writing Advice*. 2013.

One nursery rhyme is used to explain nearly one hundred elements of literature and writing in a fun, clever way.

Lockhart, E. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*. 2008.

When fifteen-year-old Frankie finds out her boyfriend is lying to her, she vows to infiltrate and take down his boys-only secret society to prove what a girl can really do.

Marchetta, Melina. *Finnikin of the Rock*. 2010.

Ten years after the royal family of Lumatere is brutally murdered, nineteen-year-old Finnikin sets out on a journey to discover whether or not the rumors of a surviving heir are true.

Miller, Madeline. *Song of Achilles*. 2012.

Achilles and Patroclus have been through many tough situations as they've grown up together. The battle at Troy may be their final challenge. This beautiful retelling of their story brings the *Iliad* to life.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *No Crystal Stair: A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller*. 2012.

Through the use of illustrations, photos, and newspaper clippings, the struggle and triumph of Lewis Michaux's passion to get people to read led him to found the National Memorial African Bookstore, which became the intellectual hub and the place to be during the Harlem Renaissance.

Newman, Lesléa. *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard*. 2012.

Through different points of view and different forms of poetry, Newman explores both the crime and tragedy of Matthew Shepard's death.

Pullman, Philip. *Tales from the Brothers Grimm: A New English Version*. 2012.

Ever wonder about the classic fairy tales you heard as a child? Pullman retells and traces the history of some of the most well known—and some obscure—stories of our time.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Fangirl*. 2013.

As a college freshman, Cath struggles to find her place as she tries to balance her chaotic home life, her fan-fiction writing, and school, while discovering what life is like without her twin sister.

Sloan, Robin. *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*. 2012.

This story of complex code breaking, global conspiracy, and adventure all starts with a lonely bookstore and one unemployed web designer.

Steifvater, Maggie. *Scorpio Races*. 2011.

Every November, riders attempt to stay on their water horses long enough to win the Scorpio Races. Puck Connolly is the first girl to ever compete and she is in no way prepared for the race or the returning champion, Sean Kendrick.

Stiefvater, Maggie, Tessa Graton, and Brenna Yovanoff. *The Curiosities: A Collection of Stories*. 2012. Three young adult authors challenged each other to write a piece of short fiction every week. *The Curiosities* is a collection of their stories, with comments from each author about their writing.

Suma, Nova Ren. *Imaginary Girls*. 2011.

Chloe adores her big sister Ruby, and lives to win Ruby's approval. In fact, Ruby seems to have this effect on everyone in their little town. But just what is the power that Ruby holds over them? The author's use of language may keep us from seeing the truth in this eerily compelling story.

Teller, Janne and Martin Aitken, trans. *Nothing*. 2010.

When Pierre Anthon announces that nothing matters, his classmates set out to prove him wrong, with chilling consequences.

Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. 2006.

Intertwining three very different stories, this graphic novel tackles the problems young Chinese-Americans face when trying to adapt to popular culture.

Science and Technology

Bascomb, Neil. *The New Cool: A Visionary Teacher, His FIRST Robotics Team and the Ultimate Battle of Smarts*. 2011.

25,000 fans, 348 teams, 31 high school students, 6 weeks, 3 finalists, and 1 robot. Guided by the enthusiasm of their fearless engineering teacher, follow one team's gripping journey through one of the most demanding robotics competitions in the world.

Blum, Deborah. *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*. 2010.

In Prohibition New York, hundreds of people died from poison in everything from unregulated health tonics to the pie at the local diner. The Head Coroner and dedicated Chief of the forensics lab were the first in the country to insist to the police, to politicians, and to the public that science could make or break a case.

Blumenthal, Karen. *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*. 2012.

This biography of Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, takes the reader from Jobs' humble beginnings to his struggles as CEO of Apple, and to his groundbreaking work that has changed the way everyone uses technology.

Bodanis, David. *E=mc²: A Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation*. 2000.

Everyone is familiar with Einstein's formula, but Bodanis reveals the history and the scientists whose work was the foundation for this famous equation.

Brown, Mike. *How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming*. 2010.

Brown always wanted to discover a planet, but what he actually discovered helped radically change the way we view the solar system. His straightforward account of his life, work, and Pluto's demotion also explains how and why scientists currently study and debate the skies.

Fainaru-Wada, Mark, and Steve Fainaru. *League of Denial: the NFL, Concussions, and the Battle for the Truth*. 2013.

Scientists battle for brains, lawyers brawl in the courts, and football players give each other concussions in the name of sport and big business. The Fainaru brothers tackle the hard truths of sports-related brain injuries.

Fink, Sheri. *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death at a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*. 2013.

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina changed the way people understand the politics of rescue and the overwhelming nature of catastrophe. Fink incisively unpacks the troubling decisions that led to the deaths of seven patients at Baptist Memorial during the storm, raising vital questions about medical ethics and disaster relief.

Fowler, Karen Joy. *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*. 2013.

At first glance the Cooke family seems normal in every way, but Rosemary keeps secrets too painful to acknowledge, even to herself. Karen Joy Fowler's work questions our depiction of family, memory, and even humanity itself.

George, Rose. *The Big Necessity: The Unmentionable World of Human Waste and Why It Matters*. 2008.

Why does poop matter? Sanitation is a huge public health issue and has massive implications for economics, growth and development, the environment, agriculture, and even education.

Goldacre, Ben. *Bad Science: Hacks, Quacks, and Big Pharma Flacks*. 2010.

Goldacre is on a crusade to raise scientific literacy so people can stop being duped by dubious wording, studies, statistics, and the next big health fad.

Greenberg, Andy. *This Machine Kills Secrets: How WikiLeaks, Cypherpunks and Hacktivists Aim to Free the World's Information*. 2012.

From the Pentagon Papers of the seventies to WikiLeaks, Greenberg helps illuminate how these whistleblowers and technology have helped bring these secrets to light.

Kean, Sam. *The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Table of Periodic Elements*. 2010.

Elements are more than just protons and electron shells; they are the sources of practical jokes and obsessions, bitter disputes and great adventures. From hydrogen to ununocium, Kean explains the elemental joys of the building blocks of chemistry with humor and verve.

Livio, Mario. *Brilliant Blunders: From Darwin to Einstein—Colossal Mistakes from Great Scientists that Changed Our Understanding of Life and the Universe*. 2013.

Even the greatest scientists had bad days. In this book, Livio explores how some of the world's greatest scientific minds missed the mark, but led to greater discoveries.

Ness, Patrick. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. 2008.

The Ask and the Answer. 2009.

Monsters of Men. 2010.

When Todd and Viola are forced to leave everything familiar behind, their flight across their newly settled planet triggers a long-simmering conflict. Ness explores xenophobia, colonialism, war, reconciliation, and control of access to technology in this gripping trilogy.

Ottaviani, Jim, and Leland Myrick. *Feynman*. 2011.

Get to know perhaps the most famous personality of nuclear physics: the bongo-playing, safe-cracking, defiantly curious Nobel Prize winner Richard Feynman in this meticulously researched graphic biography.

Quammen, David. *Spillover*. 2012.

Viruses are everywhere—mutating, hiding, waiting. When they cross over from animals to humans, they can cause some of the scariest—and most lethal—diseases (AIDS, Spanish flu, rabies, Ebola). Follow viral detectives as they try to solve these infectious mysteries and prevent the next human pandemic.

Roach, Mary. *Packing for Mars: The Curious Life of Science in the Wild*. 2010.

Mary Roach asks all the important but practical questions: How do you digest your lunch in space? Go to the bathroom? Get away from a crewmember who's driving you nuts? With her trademark humor and indefatigable curiosity, she looks hard at why humans, who are fundamentally not built for outer space, insist on risking their lives by heading for the stars.

Silver, Nate. *The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail—But Some Don't*. 2012.

Who will win the Super Bowl? Will the stock market rise or fall? Explore the world of prediction science and learn to turn information into knowledge you can use to successfully plan for the future.

Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. 2010.

Henrietta Lacks had no idea that her cells would lead to science's greatest medical breakthroughs, nor did her family have any idea that her cells are still be alive today. Skloot explores the ethics of the scientists who first used Lacks's cells and discovered that they would live forever, as well as the impact of the family's discovery that her cells were alive and being used without the family's permission.

Switek, Brian. *My Beloved Brontosaurus: On the Road with Old Bones, New Science, and Our Favorite Dinosaurs.* 2013.

Dinosaurs may have died millions of years ago, but new discoveries and theories are continually changing the way we look at and understand the giant reptiles.

Teresi, Dick. *Lost Discoveries: The Ancient Roots of Modern Science—From the Babylonians to the Maya.* 2002.

Modern science and math didn't start with Newton or Galileo, or even the Ancient Greeks. From around the world and over millennia, curious minds in diverse cultures made fabulous discoveries in fields from math to physics, astronomy to chemistry.

Thwaites, Thomas. *The Toaster Project: or A Heroic Attempt to Build a Simple Electric Appliance from Scratch.* 2011.

How hard do you think it is to smelt iron? Make plastic? Create wiring? Thwaites's simple goal—to make himself a cheap mechanical toaster—ends up a frequently frustrating and hilarious look at just how far we are from being able to manufacture the everyday items we take for granted.

Urasawa, Naoki, Osama Tezuka, and others. *Pluto Vol. 1-8.* 2009.

A re-entry into the world of Osamu Tezuka's legendary 1964 classic *Astro Boy*, *Pluto* follows the clever, conflicted investigator Gesicht as he tracks down the terrorist who has sent an invincible robot to execute the seven best robots in the world.

Weidensaul, Scott. *The Ghost with Trembling Wings: Science, Wishful Thinking, and the Search for Lost Species.* 2002.

Approximately 30,000 species of animals and plants go extinct every year. Follow Weidensaul around the globe to places such as Madagascar, Indonesia, and Peru, as he pursues stories of extinction and, surprisingly, resurrection.

Wohlsen, Marcus. *Biopunk: DIY Scientists Hack the Software of Life.* 2011.

Can the cure for cancer be found in your kitchen? In *Biopunk*, Wohlsen sheds light on a new community of DIY scientists working outside the walls of corporations and universities to solve the world's biggest problems and to "open source" the basic code of life.

Social Sciences

Armstrong, Ken and Nick Perry. *Scoreboard Baby: A Story of College Football, Crime, and Complicity.* 2010.

Rape, attempted murder, and drug charges fill the rap sheets of a many members of a college football team. Why isn't the media or the community talking or doing anything about it?

Bazon, Emily. *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy.* 2013.

Bazon digs into and defines bullying culture, from the classroom to the internet.

Biss, Eula. *Notes from No Man's Land: American Essays.* 2009.

Biss's series of essays, set in various places in the United States, explore race, racial identity, and racial privilege, highlighting the complexities of diversity in America.

Boo, Katherine. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.* , 2012.

Connect with the residents of Annawadi, a makeshift settlement on the outskirts of the Mumbai airport, as they confront global change and inequality in modern India with hope and imagination.

Cain, Susan. *Quiet: the Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking.* 2012.

It takes all types to make things happen. A fascinating look at how introverts have contributed to society and how it can be a good thing to be "quiet."

Chang, Leslie T. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*. 2008.

A compelling and eye-opening look at young women in China who make up a growing migrant population in the country's largest cities.

Cox, Stephen. *The Big House: Image and Reality of the American Prison*. 2009.

A history of large prisons, why they were designed and built as they were, and the stark reality of the prisoners who inhabit them.

Doller, Trish. *Something Like Normal*. 2012.

Travis's leave of absence from the Marines brings him back to Florida not as a hero, but as a man who has to clean up the messes he left behind as a boy. In the midst of doing so, he grapples with PTSD and what it means to have lost a best friend on the battlefield.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*. 2011.

Can you really survive on minimum wage? To find out, Ehrenreich left her middle-class life for a year to see what life is really like for America's working poor.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Round House*. 2012.

After his tribal specialist mother is brutally attacked, fourteen-year-old Joe Coutz sets off with his three friends to find out who is responsible.

Farish, Terry. *The Good Braider*. 2012.

The long, hard, and ultimately hopeful journey of a young Sudanese refugee from a country terrorized by war to Portland, Maine, where cultural differences present a continuing struggle.

Guène, Faiza, and Sarah Adams, trans. *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*. 2006.

A coming-of-age story of a French-Moroccan girl set in the Paradise projects on the outskirts of Paris. The reader will explore a different world but will, at the same time, realize the universal experience of adolescence.

Hauser, Brooke. *The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens*. 2011.

Spend one year in a high school with immigrant English-language learning students from over 40 different countries who speak over 25 different languages. At times funny, heartbreaking, frustrating, and inspiring, these students discover what it means to be "the new kids" in school and out.

Kishtainy, Niall, George Abbot and others. *The Economics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*. 2012.

Anything and everything you ever wanted to know about economics in one handy, colorful, and easy-to-browse book.

Kristoff, Nicholas D., and Sheryl WuDunn. *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. 2009.

From the brutality of human trafficking to heartbreaking maternal death rates, this work brings to light these atrocities through women's personal stories and provides guidance on how we can all take part in the opportunity to change the conditions of women's lives across the globe.

Kwok, Jean. *Girl in Translation*. 2010.

Kim Chang grows up living a double life: a scholar at school during the day and Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Kim must translate not just her language, but her role within each of her worlds.

Lewis, Michael. *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*. 2011.

A low-budget baseball team, the Oakland A's, attempts to make it big by looking beyond the superficial pull of a nice swing, good looks, and so-called "hustle," to see what really matters in putting together a winning team: the numbers.

McCormick, Patricia. *Sold*. 2006.

When Lakshmi's stepfather sells her (a common practice in her poor village), the thirteen-year-old does not expect to end up in a Calcutta brothel, where her life becomes a nightmare she can't escape.

McKay, Sharon E., and Daniel Lafrance. *War Brothers: The Graphic Novel*. 2013.

This moving graphic novel discusses the kidnapping and training of child soldiers in Uganda. These children not only face the harsh reality of war, but also the rehabilitation to normal life after seeing such horrors.

Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore: One Name: Two Fates*. 2010.

Two kids with the same name grew up only blocks away from each other. One went on to become a scholar and businessman, while the other is serving a life sentence in prison.

Nicks, Denver. *Private: Bradley Manning, WikiLeaks, and the Biggest Exposure of Official Secrets in American History*. 2012.

The story of Bradley Manning, the military intelligence analyst who leaked thousands of classified documents to the public through WikiLeaks. Nicks reveals the story of a young misfit, who leaked the documents because of dissatisfaction with serving in the military and the anticipated notoriety that would follow.

Ripley, Amanda. *The Smartest Kids in the World: and How They Got that Way*. 2013.

A literary journalist followed three teenagers who spent a school year living in Finland, South Korea, and Poland. Each country's different educational styles bring up the question of which teaching style gets the best results.

Suma, Nova Ren. *17 and Gone*. 2013.

Lauren keeps meeting girls who went missing at age 17, but her experiences with them might not be ghostly encounters. They might be signs of a more troubling illness inside her.

Thompson, Clive. *Smarter Than You Think: How Technology is Changing Our Minds for the Better*. 2013.

Technology doesn't own us; we own technology. Thompson delves into how we use technology to better ourselves, our memories, and our society more broadly.