

## **BIOGRAPHIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

**155.5 Van - Popular: Vintage wisdom for a modern geek by 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 by following advice in a 1950s popularity guide, an experiment that triggered embarrassment, humor and unexpected surprises.

**289.3092 Coe – Saving Alex: When I was fifteen I told my Mormon parents I was gay, and that’s when my nightmare began by Alex Cooper** - The author recalls her experiences as a teenager in an unlicensed Mormon treatment program intended to cure her of lesbianism, detailing the abuse and cruelty she endured, as well as the historic legal case surrounding it.

**305.23 Naz – Enrique’s Journey: The true story of a boy determined to reunite with his mother by Sonia Naz** - Documents the journey of a Honduran teen who braved hardship and peril to reunite with his mother after she was forced to leave him behind and seek migratory work in the United States.

**305.235 Bla - Please Stop Laughing at Me by Jodee Blanco** - The author shares the cruelty that was heaped on her by her classmates when she was labeled a freak in high school, describing what it meant to be an outcast among one's peers and her struggle to overcome the torment.

**305.9084 Pee – Same but Different: Teen life on the autism express by Holly Robinson Peete** - Teenagers Ryan Elizabeth Peete and RJ Peete discuss what it is like for RJ as a teenager with autism and Ryan as a teenager with an autistic sibling.

**306.362 Hal - Hidden Girl: The true story of a modern-day child slave by Shyima Hall** - Egyptian-born Shyima was enslaved at age eight, forced her to work 18 hours a day, every day of the week. Later smuggled from Cairo to California, a neighbor's anonymous call finally helped her first steps toward true freedom.

**306.768 Jen – Being Jazz: My life as a (transgender) teen by Jazz Jennings** - Teen activist and trailblazer Jazz Jennings--named one of "The 25 most influential teens" of the year by Time--shares her very public transgender journey, as she inspires people to accept the differences in others while they embrace their own truths.

**306.8743 Rod - The Pregnancy Project: A memoir by Gaby Rodriguez** - During her senior year, Gaby Rodriguez told everyone she was pregnant. Her mother and older sisters were teenage mothers and she was expected to do the same. To prove a point, Gaby faked her pregnancy for a school project...then made headlines.

**331.89 Far - Fannie Never Flinched: One woman's courage in the struggle for American labor union rights by Mary Cronk Farrell** - Traces the life of Fannie Sellins, a union activist who traveled the nation promoting fair wages and decent working and living conditions for workers in the garment and mining industries.

**362.19697 Raw - Positive: Surviving my bullies, finding hope, and living to change the world by Paige Rawl** – An HIV-positive teen recounts how her attempt to comfort a friend led to bullying from everyone from her peers to her soccer coach, eventually overcoming depression then going on to activism.

**362.29 Etl - The Dead Inside: a true story by Cyndy Etler** - At age fourteen Cyndy escaped from her violent home only to be reported as a runaway and sent to a drug rehabilitation facility that changed her world. Behind the closed doors of Straight, Inc., the program used bizarre and intimidating methods to treat its patients.

**363.283 Emm – I am a Secret Service Agent: My life spent protecting the President by Dan Emmett** - Traces the story of a Secret Service agent who protected three American presidents, describing how he pursued his job after the assassination of JFK and how he met a range of challenges throughout a career shaped by major historical events.

**364.1523 Cro – Getting Away with Murder: The true story of the Emmett Till case by Chris Crowe** - Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955.

**616.85227 Dot – Being Me with OCD: How I learned to obsess less and live my life by Alison Dotson** - Uses the author's own experiences with obsessive-compulsive disorder to discuss the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of OCD, and includes advice on finding help and living a fuller, happier life with the disorder

**617.11 Bro - Beautiful Scars by Kilee Brookbank** – At sixteen, Kilee was burned on 45 percent of her body in a horrible accident. After 38 days of surgeries, skin grafts, perpetual physical therapy and excruciating pain, she had to discover how to live again.

**617.482 Bur - Laughing at my Nightmare by Shane Burcaw** - With acerbic wit & a hilarious voice, Shane’s memoir describes the challenges he faces as a 20-year-old with muscular atrophy. From awkward handshakes to trying to finding a girlfriend and everything in between

**621.453 Kam - The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating currents of electricity and hope by William Kamkwamba** - This immensely engaging tale relates how an enterprising teenager in Malawi builds a windmill from scraps he finds around his village and brings electricity, and a future, to his family.

**636.7 Kop – Pound for Pound: A story of one woman’s recovery and the shelter dogs who loved her back to life by Shannon Kopp** - In an inspirational memoir, a writer, eating-disorder survivor and animal-welfare advocate shares how she overcame

the disease of bulimia with the help of the shelter dogs she cared for, who helped her find the courage to forgive herself and find spiritual healing, reminding us all that animals are more than just friends and companions.

**782.42166 Ruf - Die Young with Me: a memoir by Rob Rufus** - The author describes growing up in rural West Virginia and starting a punk band with his twin brother, only to be diagnosed with stage four cancer, which forced him to discover his inner strength.

**791.4302 Gue - In the Country we Love: My family divided by Diane Guerrero** - The star of Orange is the New Black and Jane the Virgin presents her personal story of the real plight of undocumented immigrants in this country.

**951.9305 Lee - Every Falling Star: The true story of how I survived and escaped North Korea by Sungju Lee** - The memoir of a twelve-year-old boy who grew up in North Korea looks at how he was forced to live on the streets, fend for himself, and live with a gang after his parents disappeared.

**959.604 Kea – Alive in the Killing Fields: Surviving the Khmer Rouge genocide by Nawuth Keat** - The gripping story of a young boy who survived the atrocities in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge and escaped to the United States.

**966.404 Bea – A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier by Ishmael Beah** - A firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

**973.046872 Gra – The Distance Between us: A memoir by Reyna Grande** – The author details her experiences as an illegal child immigrant, describing how her parents' dreams of better opportunities for their family were marked by her father's violent alcoholism, her efforts to obtain a higher education and the inspiration of Latina authors.

**977.3 Mor – Home Front Girl: A diary of love, literature, and growing up in wartime America by Joan Wehlen Morrison** - This is the diary of a smart, astute, and funny teenager, making a record of what an everyday American girl thought and felt during the Depression and the lead-up to World War II. This is an important primary source on the late 1930s and early 1940s

**B Al-M – The Girl who Fell to Earth: A memoir by Sophia Al-Maria** - An award-winning young filmmaker and writer's funny and wry coming-of-age memoir about growing up in between the American and Arab cultures.

**B And – Breakthrough: How one teen innovator is changing the world by Jack Andraka** - Teen scientist Jack Andraka chronicles his development of an inexpensive early detection test for pancreatic, ovarian, and lung cancer, and recounts his own personal story of overcoming depression and homophobic bullying.

**B Asg – Of Beetles & Angels: A boy's remarkable journey from a refugee camp to Harvard by Mawi Asgedom** - An autobiography of a boy who, at the age of three, fled civil war in Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp, and later moved to Chicago and earned a scholarship to Harvard University.

**B Bri - Obsessed: A memoir of my life with OCD by Allison Britz** - A brave teen recounts her debilitating struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder, sharing insights into her painful but ultimately inspirational journey toward recovery.

**B Ili – Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan holocaust by Immaculee Ilibagiza** - Presents the true story of a woman who endured the murder of her family as a result of genocide in Rwanda and turned to prayer for strength, love, and forgiveness.

**B Kaz – One Two Feet and Wings: One boy's amazing story of survival by Abbas Kazerooni** - Recounts the author's experiences fleeing Iran as a young boy during the Iran-Iraq war, and making his way on his own in the unfamiliar city of Istanbul in hopes of attaining a visa in England.

**B Li – A Girl Named Faithful Plum: A true story of a dancer from China and how she achieved her dream by Richard Bernstein** - Narrates the story of how a young dancer from rural China was admitted to the prestigious Beijing Dance Academy and through hard work and perseverance went on to become one of the most famous dancers in China.

**B Man – Becoming Maria: Love and chaos in the South Bronx** - The award-winning author of The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano and influential Hispanic-American actress best known as "Maria" on Sesame Street traces her disadvantaged childhood and dreams of becoming an actress that motivated her career.

**B Nic – Clarina Nichols: Frontier crusader for women's rights by Diane Eickoff** - A biography of the early American newspaper publisher and feminist, Clarina Howard Nichols. Includes an overview of the first women's rights movement.

**B Pet - The Girl from the Metropol Hotel: growing up in communist Russia by Ludmilla Petrushevskaya** - Recounts the author's childhood in poverty in Soviet Moscow, discussing her family's former successes as Bolshevik intellectuals living in the opulent Metropol Hotel.

**B Sch – Jesus Land: A memoir by Julia Scheeres** - Tells the story of a white girl who was sent from the Midwest to a Christian reform school in the Dominican Republic after she and her black adopted brother fought back against the racism and bullying that was directed toward them.

**B Uwi - How Dare the Sun Rise: memoirs of a war child by Sandra Uwiringiyimana** - A memoir by the co-creator of the Foundation of Hope Ministries shares the remarkable story of her survival during the Gatumba massacre and how after moving to America she found healing through art and activism.

# OTHER BIOGRAPHY IDEAS

## ACTORS, ARTISTS, PERFORMERS, & CEWEBRITIES

Amani Al-Khatahtbeh	Michaela DePrince	Jimi Hendrix	John Lennon	Elvis Presley
P.T. Barnum	Ricky Dillon	Alfred Hitchcock	Lil Wayne	Pharrell
Josephine Baker	Dr. Dre	Harry Houdini	George Lucas	Rihanna
Beyonce	Walt Disney	Michael Jackson	Madonna	Elizabeth Taylor
Chris Brown	Simon Estes	Jay-Z	Jenn McAllister	MTV Teen Moms
Marcus Butler	50 Cent	Angelina Jolie	Niki Minaj	Vincent Van Gogh
Johnny Cash	Michael J. Fox	Janis Joplin	Modoc	Leonardo Da Vinci
Jackie Chan	Aretha Franklin	Frida Kahlo	Marilyn Monroe	Kanye West
Charlie Chaplin	Eva Gutowski	Toby Keith	I.M. Pei	Oprah Winfrey
Sean Combs	Hannah Hart	Stan Lee	Pablo Picasso	Maddie Ziegler

## ATHLETES:

Muhammad Ali	Gabrielle Douglas	Bruce Jenner	Michael Lewis	Tim Tebow
Lance Armstrong	Jeff Gordon	Derek Jeter	Jason McElwain	Ed Thomas
Arthur Ashe	Bethany Hamilton	Shawn Johnson	Aron Ralston	Jim Thorpe
Simone Biles	Mia Hamm	Michael Jordan	Babe Ruth	Michelle Wie
Abbey Curran	Lebron James	Bruce Lee	Josh Sundquist	Tiger Woods

## AUTHORS

Douglas Adams	Bill Bryson	Ezra Jack Keats	Gary Paulsen	Harriet Beecher Stowe
Louisa May Alcott	Lewis Carroll	Harper Lee	Richard Peck	Ida M. Tarbell
Maya Angelou	Chris Crutcher	Theo LeSig (Dr. Seuss)	Edgar Allan Poe	Henry David Thoreau
Isaac Asimov	Roald Dahl	C.S. Lewis	J.K. Rowling	J.R.R. Tolkien
Jane Austen	Charles Dickens	Jack London	William Shakespeare	Ned Vizzini
J.M. Barrie	Frederick Douglass	Lois Lowry	Shel Silverstein	Elie Wiesel
L. Frank Baum	Lois Duncan	Herman Melville	Jerry Spinelli	Laura Ingalls Wilder
Judy Blume	Sid Fleischman	L.M. Montgomery	John Steinbeck	Jacqueline Woodson
Charlotte Bronte	Jack Gantos	Walter Dean Myers	Bram Stoker	Virginia Woolf

## CRIMINALS:

Billy the Kid	Osama bin Laden	Mark David Chapman	John Dillinger	Bonnie & Clyde
Jesse James	John Wilkes Booth	D.B. Cooper	Adolf Hitler	James Earl Ray
Al Capone	Lizzie Borden	Jeffrey Dahmer	Lee Harvey Oswald	

## MARTYRS, REVOLUTIONARIES, & LEADERS:

Joan of Arc	Mahatma Gandhi	Martin Luther King, Jr.	Rosa Parks	Mother Teresa
W.E.B. Du Bois	Che Guevara	Dalai Lama	Eva Peron	Harriet Tubman
Claudette Colvin	Alexander Hamilton	Dorothea Lange	Elizabeth Cady Stanton	Malcolm X
Anne Frank	Helen Keller	Nelson Mandela	Gloria Steinem	Malala Yousafzai

## MILITARY & POLITICS:

Benedict Arnold	Hillary Rodham Clinton	Thomas Jefferson	Golda Meir	Ronald Regan
George W. Bush	Ulysses S. Grant	John F. Kennedy	Richard Nixon	Condoleezza Rice
Jimmy Carter	Adolf Hitler	Henry A. Kissinger	Barack Obama	Theodore Roosevelt
Fidel Castro	Herbert Hoover	Abraham Lincoln	Sandra Day O'Connor	Margaret Thatcher
Bill Clinton	Andrew Jackson	Joe McCarthy	Colin Powell	Desmond Tutu

## SCIENTISTS, INVENTORS, PIONEERS, & THINKERS:

Buzz Aldrin	Clarence Darrow	John Glenn	Magellan	Carl Sagan
Aristotle	Amelia Earhart	Temple Grandin	Isaac Newton	Alan Shepard
Alexander Graham Bell	Thomas Edison	Johannes Gutenberg	Friedrich Nietzsche	Nikola Tesla
Henry Bergh	Albert Einstein	Stephen Hawking	Florence Nightingale	Madam C.J. Walker
George Wash. Carver	Benjamin Franklin	Steve Jobs	Alfred Nobel	Chuck Yeager
Marie & Pierre Currie	Sigmund Freud	Lewis & Clark	Louis Pasteur	Mark Zuckerberg
Charles Darwin	Bill Gates	Charles Lindberg	Plato	