

WHS SUMMER READING

Non-fiction 7 - 9

2023

Brown, Willie Mae. **My Selma: true stories of a Southern childhood at the height of the civil rights movement**. Brown, who was born in the early 1950s, came of age during a time of tremendous social upheaval. She begins her remembrance of the Selma of her tween years by highlighting the love and mutual support that existed within the Black community. This love is particularly evident in her interactions with her siblings. As well as relating memories of events that made the national news, she shares many touching anecdotes of family, church, and school life. While loved ones tried to shield her from the bitter impact of racism, several incidents she witnessed and experienced with White people in her town juxtapose the two distinct Selmas in existence.

Castaldo, Nancy F. **When the World Runs Dry: Earth's Water in Crisis**. A narrative nonfiction account of the worldwide water crisis, explaining what's happening to the **world's** water supply, from industrial pollution to harmful algal blooms, and what kids can do about it.

Copeland, Misty. **Life in Motion** As the first female African American principal dancer in American Ballet Theatre history, Misty Copeland has been a constant game changer during her illustrious career. This is a story for all the kids who dare to be different, dream bigger, and want to break stereotypes in whatever they do.

Davis, Kenneth C. **Strongman**. At a time when dictators are rampant in such countries as North Korea, Turkey, China, Russia, and others, Davis' deep dive into the lives of five of history's most notorious dictators (or strongmen as he calls them)-Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, and Hussein-is apposite and timely. Readers learn that each of the five was unspeakably vile in his own way, but together they did share areas of commonality: all of them developed a cult of personality, all of them created new generations of loyal young people (Hitler youth, for example), placed blame on a single group (as Hitler did with the Jews), called for law and order, took control of the media, etc. Davis does not sugarcoat his material, inviting long thoughts with his assertion that this is a decidedly human story that points to real people as evidence that evil exists in this troubled world. The philosopher Santayana famously said, "Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.

Dyer, Hadley. **More Than Money: how economic inequality affects everything**. Pointing out that economic inequality has an impact on everyone in society, Dyer and Bernard define it, explain how it's measured, and show how other factors—for example, social status, gender, health, race, and nationality—contribute to it. They focus on the 38 countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Examples, drawn from many of these nations, include some scenarios that will feel familiar to North American readers and others that will broaden their global awareness. The writers argue that while inequality has been a perennial problem since humans developed agriculture, recent trends—automation, globalization, and the financialization of economies—have exacerbated things. Today's more egalitarian countries, they say, have governments that support middle-class people and assist poorer citizens, resulting in societies that are healthier and safer.

Feinstein, John. **The Back Roads to March: The Unsung, Unheralded, and Unknown Heroes of the College Basketball Season.** Feinstein follows a handful of players, coaches, and schools who dream, not of winning the NCAA tournament, but of making it past their first or second round games. Every once in a while, one of these coaches or players is plucked from obscurity to continue on to lead a major team or to play professionally, cementing their status in these fiercely passionate fan bases as a legend. These are the gifted players who aren't handled with kid gloves—they're hardworking, gritty teammates who practice and party with everyone else.

Fleischman, Paul. **Alphamaniacs: Builders of 26 Wonders of the Word.** Step right up and read the genuine stories of writers so intoxicated by the shapes and sound of language that they collected, dissected, and constructed verbal wonders of the most extraordinary kind. Jean-Dominique Bauby wrote his memoirs by blinking his left eyelid, unable to move the rest of his body. Frederic Cassidy was obsessed with the language of place, and after posing hundreds of questions to folks all over the United States, amassed (among other things) 176 words for dust bunnies. Georges Perec wrote a novel without using the letter *e* (so well that at least one reviewer didn't notice its absence), then followed with a novella in which *e* was the *only* vowel. A love letter to all those who love words, language, writing, writers, and stories, *Alphamaniacs* is a stunningly illustrated collection of mini-biographies about the most daring and peculiar of writers and their audacious, courageous, temerarious way with words.

Fleming, Candace. **Presenting Buffalo Bill : the man who invented the Wild West** Everyone knows the name Buffalo Bill, but few these days know what he did or, in some cases, didn't do. Was he a Pony Express rider? Did he ride with Wild Bill Hickok? Did he "scalp" countless Native Americans, or did he defend their rights?

Hayasaki, Erika. **Somewhere Sisters: a story of adoption, identity, and the meaning of family.** Isabella and Ha, identical twin girls born in Vietnam, were raised on opposite sides of the world, each having no idea that the other existed. Erika Hayasaki's deeply reported, intimate story of their journey back to each other upends common conceptions of adoption, family, and identity.

Janeczko, Paul. **The Dark Game: True Spy Stories.** Since the Revolutionary War, espionage has created fascinating scenarios involving some quite unlikely participants. From Benedict Arnold and Mata Hari to the lesser-known Elizabeth Van Lew and Juan Pujol, Janeczko delves into their stories with delicious detail, drawing readers into a world of intrigue and danger.

Jahren, Hope. **Lab Girl.** Acclaimed scientist Hope Jahren has built three laboratories in which she's studied trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. Her first book is a revelatory treatise on plant life - but it is also so much more. *Lab Girl* is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren's remarkable stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota; about how she found a sanctuary in science, and learned to perform lab work done "with both the heart and the hands"; and about the inevitable disappointments, but also the triumphs and exhilarating discoveries, of scientific work.

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. **Braiding Sweetgrass for young adults : indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants.** Botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things--from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen--provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book Braiding Sweetgrass. Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest teachers: the plants around us. With informative sidebars, reflection questions, and art from illustrator Nicole Neidhardt, Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults brings Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the lessons of plant life to a new generation"

Lee Shetterly, Margo. **Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race.** Shetterly shines a much-needed light on the bright, talented, and wholly underappreciated geniuses of the institution that would become NASA. Called upon during the labor shortage of World War II, these women were asked to serve their country and put their previously overlooked skills to work--all while being segregated from their white coworkers. The author tells the compelling stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden as they navigated mathematical equations, the space race, and the civil rights movement over three decades of brilliant computing and discoveries.

Lloyd, Carli. **All heart : my dedication and determination to become one of soccer's best.** In 2015, the U.S. Women's National Team won its first FIFA championship in sixteen years, culminating in an epic final game that featured a gutsy, brilliant performance by the midfielder Carli Lloyd. But there was a time when Carli almost quit sports. She had just been cut from the Under-21 team and told she wasn't working hard enough to be at this level. Carli was faced with a decision: should she give up or try again?

Maraniss, Andrew. **Inaugural Ballers: the true story of the first US women's Olympic basketball team** Twenty years before women's soccer became an Olympic sport and two decades before the formation of the WNBA, the '76 US women's basketball team laid the foundation for the incredible rise of women's sports in America at the youth, collegiate, Olympic, and professional levels. Though they were unknowns from small schools such as Delta State, the University of Tennessee at Martin and John F. Kennedy College of Wahoo, Nebraska, at the time of the '76 Olympics, the American team included a roster of players who would go on to become some of the most legendary figures in the history of basketball. From Pat Head, Nancy Lieberman, Ann Meyers, Lusia Harris, coach Billie Moore, and beyond--these women took on the world and proved everyone wrong.

Martin, Iain. **Gettysburg: The True Account of Two Young Heroes in the Greatest Battle of the Civil War.** In this original retelling of the Gettysburg story, Iain Martin draws upon firsthand accounts—from the generals to the lowly privates and civilians caught in the epic struggle. Readers will discover history through the experiences of two Gettysburg teenagers—Matilda “Tillie” Pierce and Daniel Skelly.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj. **Proud: Living My American Dream.** Black but Muslim. Muslim but American. A hijab-wearing athlete. Ibtihaj Muhammad, an Olympic medalist in fencing and the first Muslim woman to represent the U.S. in international competition, explores identity, her path to the 2016 Olympics. Muhammad was always competitive, especially when it came to sports. Wearing a hijab and coming from a large family, she realized that fencing allowed her an easier way to maintain her faith than in other sports and work toward a scholarship for college. And it turned out she was excellent!

Mundy, Liza. **Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers Who Helped Win World War II**. As the U.S. headed to war in 1941, two things became clear to military leaders: victory depended on successful code breaking and they didn't have nearly enough people working on it. The solution was for the Army and Navy to recruit women for cryptanalysis. Tens of thousands of women answered the call for this top-secret work. Drawing from recently declassified National Security Agency files, Mundy rescues these women's stories from anonymity and obscurity. She vividly describes the intricacies of code breaking while weaving in crucial historical information about the war and women's participation in it.

O'Brien, Anne. **After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance**. It's been a century since a young lawyer named Mohandas Gandhi peacefully defied the British Empire in support of Indian laborers working in South Africa. The authors trace the impact of that seminal event, highlighting the subsequent, worldwide history of nonviolent resistance. Coverage includes dozens of examples profiling the durable courage of leaders like Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, Vaclav Havel, and Wangari Maathai and ending with a chapter on the role of nonviolence in shaping the future.

Pitzer, Andrea. **Icebound**. The most astonishing survival tale of all might be that of 16th-century Dutch explorer William Barents and his crew of sixteen, who ventured farther north than any Europeans before and, on their third polar exploration, lost their ship off the frozen coast of Nova Zembla to unforgiving ice. The men would spend the next year fighting off ravenous polar bears, gnawing hunger, and endless winter. In **Icebound**, Andrea Pitzer masterfully combines a gripping tale of survival with a sweeping history of the great Age of Exploration—a time of hope, adventure, and seemingly unlimited geographic frontiers. At the story's center is William Barents, one of the 16th century's greatest navigators whose larger-than-life ambitions and obsessive quest to chart a path through the deepest, most remote regions of the Arctic ended in both tragedy and glory.

Slater, Dashka. **The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives**. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

Tougas, Mike. **A Storm Too Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80-Foot Seas**. On May 2, 2007, three expert sailors embark on an epic voyage from Florida to France. But the trip of a lifetime soon turns into a nightmare when their sailboat disappears along the Gulf Stream in the throes of a relentless storm. From this point onward, their fate lies in the hands of four courageous coast guardsmen who must navigate brutal conditions in their Search and Rescue mission.

Wallace-Wells, David. **The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming** "The threat from climate change is more total than from the bomb. It is also more pervasive." The author observes, almost every major moment of "evolutionary reset" in Earth's history has been precipitated by climate change produced by an overproduction of greenhouse gasses and there is now more carbon in the air than at any point in the last 15 million years, leading him to open, grimly, with the warning, "It is worse, much worse, than you think." The results will be catastrophic, from untold millions of environmental refugees to summers that, even in Scandinavia, will be accompanied by killer heat waves.

Wickenden, Dorothy. **The Agitators: Three Friends Who Fought for Abolition and Women's Rights**. From the intimate perspective of three friends the 'agitators' of the title tells the fascinating and crucially American stories of abolition, the Underground Railroad, the early women's rights movement, and the Civil War. Harriet Tubman--no-nonsense, funny, uncannily prescient, and strategically brilliant--was one of the most important conductors on the underground railroad and hid the enslaved men, women and children she rescued in the basement kitchens of Martha Wright, Quaker mother of seven, and Frances Seward, wife of Governor, then Senator, then Secretary of State William H. Seward. Harriet worked for the Union Army in South Carolina as a nurse and spy, and took part in a river raid in which 750 enslaved people were freed from rice plantations. Martha, a 'dangerous woman' in the eyes of her neighbors and a harsh critic of Lincoln's policy on slavery, organized women's rights and abolitionist conventions with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Frances gave freedom seekers money and referrals and aided in their education.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Brown Girl Dreaming**. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.