Inspirational stories from history, fashion, justice and injustice, self-help, the natural world, and money are topics in the 2012 Nonfiction Honor List. These books were selected after significant input from middle grade students and teachers. Some will appeal to a broad group of students, while others will appeal to a select group of students. Each selection has something special to offer the reader.

A journey through the animal kingdom with visual images of the fascinating lives of diverse animals is indeed an amazing adventure in reading.

“I like this book because it has my favorite animals, like cheetahs and snakes.” Joseph, age 11
For teens who are partial to zombies, aliens, and genetically-mutated humans, The End may just be the perfect little encyclopedia. Fifty apocalyptic books, movies, plays, songs, paintings, short stories, and TV shows, arranged alphabetically, are featured in this descriptive compendium.

“It had great information about the topics and the movies and songs. Entertaining!” Dylan, age 11
Chesner delivers a high-energy, first-hand look at ADHD that is meant to be read quickly and repeatedly. Approaching his “special brain” as a blessing in disguise, the author offers anecdotes and advice on topics ranging from school to meds to friendship.

Curtis provides a glimpse into the international food system, raising issues

PUBLISHERS: HOW TO NOMINATE YOUR BOOKS FOR VOYA’S NEXT NONFICTION HONOR LIST

If your 2013 publications for middle/junior high school readers fulfill the criteria in the box on the following page, you may nominate qualified titles. Please note that the minimum grade level interest is grade six.

1. Select your finest publications; you are limited to five titles from each imprint.
2. Send five copies of each nominated book to our committee chair, addressed to:
   Mary Ellen Snodgrass
   VOYA Nonfiction Honor List Committee
   5591 Ashley Court • Hickory, NC 28601
3. Be sure that we receive your books as early as possible but no later than January 31, 2014.
4. Winning selections will be featured in the next edition of the Nonfiction Honor List, an annotated bibliography in the August 2014 issue of VOYA.
5. Refer procedural questions to VOYA Editor in Chief, RoseMary Honnold at rhonnold@voyamagazine.com.

NOTE: Books submitted for the Honor List are not automatically reviewed in VOYA. Please send review copies to Lisa Kurdyla, Review Editor, 16211 Oxford Ct., Bowie, MD 20715.

Reminder: See our February 2013 issue or our website at http://www.voyamagazine.com for how to nominate your fiction titles for our annual Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers list.

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of global concern as she describes what children eat for lunch at school.

“This book was so engrossing. Hard to put down.” Sixth grade science teacher.


The universe of fashion offers many opportunities for the creative student. This guide provides details and plans for action from a personal wardrobe to the runway show.

“I really liked this book because it gives me a lot of tips about fashion.” Destiny, age 13


Guy Paul Morin, convicted for the 1984 murder of a nine-year-old girl, was finally exonerated in 1995 after DNA evidence revealed he was only guilty of being weird.

“I think it is messed up how they blame it on this poor guy even though he didn’t do it.” Xavier, age 12


“I like the fact that the book is written from the perspectives of both sides.” Seventh grade history teacher


“Information about famous mathematicians (a project I do in my class), math tricks, and all sorts of great info about MATH.” Seventh grade math teacher


“The poems give insight into the little joys and the great suffering in a slave’s life.” Sixth grade language arts teacher


An illustrated hall of fame that showcases animals that excel, whether in ferocity, size, song, or other attribute.

“My kids turned away from the computers to look at it!” Sixth grade science teacher


True stories reveal the tragic consequences of bullying, while frank discussion of perpetrators and victims offers strategies to prevent this anti-social behavior.


This is an inspirational narrative that provides glimpses into the lives of women who secured the right to vote, allowing today’s women to make their mark in American democracy. A timeline, historical photographs, hands-on activities, and on-line resources provide engaging stimuli for the reader.

“Good book; it has lots of information. I found it simple to read.” Lloyd, age 12


The Golden Age of Magic comes to life as readers follow the extraordinary exploits of American conjurer, Harry Kellar. It is told through bill boards, photos, and stories of the fascinating people who influenced his life.

“This is a cool book about an old magician. It had cool pictures and facts.” Michael, age 12


Filled with compelling photos, this book chronicles the main events of the war, as well as the leaders, participants, strategies, and technologies involved and the implications these had on daily life.

“I chose to read this book because my great-grandpa was in the war.” Seth, age 11


The inspirational lives of four Birmingham youths, who answered Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s plea to “fill the jails,” are used to give an intimate look at the Civil Rights Movement as it unfolded in the state of Alabama.

“It provides young people not only with an account of an important moment in our country’s history, but also with an example of how to engage themselves and effect change.” Seth, age 11

Eighth grade social studies teacher.


When teens have questions about gangs, this book provides answers and realistic explanations of gang behavior and membership. Each section also contains answers to FAQs, myths, do’s and don’ts, advice, and quizzes to further clarify the information that is presented.

“I like how it has real-life examples.” Kimberly, age 13


In their own words, teens write about their struggles with life and how they found ways to cope and deal with their anger. The book also provides an interview with therapist Toni Heineman.

“It lets teens show their real emotion about anger, so I think this is an amazingly outstanding book.” Maria, age 12


Students will fully enjoy the humorous and colorful photos and easy-to-follow format that is used to provide a quick biography of one hundred inventors, explorers, political leaders, scientists, thinkers, and writers who shaped the modern world.

“I like the way the facts were presented. Unique pictures that I’ve never seen.” Maria, age 12


Readers can enjoy the story of the life of Albert Einstein as they work out thought experiments in their heads and enjoy hands-on activities used in some of Einstein’s work.

“This book makes me see how much Einstein did for history.” Melanie, age 12.


“This book was awesome. I learned even more stuff about the military and what they use for combat.” Carlos, age 12

Rappaport provides a substantive and carefully documented addition to the literature of the Holocaust. The text includes accounts of twenty acts of Jewish resistance and is illustrated with archival photographs.

“A great book to use to teach about the Holocaust, but more importantly, the power of the human spirit.” Sixth grade social studies teacher


When 256 people on eight whaling vessels are icebound in the Arctic Ocean in 1897, a trio of rescuers is ordered to take “prompt and energetic action, looking to the relief of the imprisoned whale men.” What ensues is an adventure of immense magnitude brought to life through the journals and photographs of the three rescuers.

“It gave great facts about the Arctic expedition. I recommend it.” Dylan, age 11


“The option to choose different outcomes . . . helps to enhance student interest.” Eighth grade history teacher


Youth Communication, the editorial agency behind this volume, works with teens to develop their reading and writing skills to foster success in school and beyond. The twenty essays that comprise the book shed light on the bullied, the bystander, and the bully; the writing is polished but retains an essential honesty and authenticity.

“I enjoy that this book tells you about real-life bullying.” Lloyd, age 12


Beginning with the premise that “cash is complicated,” Vermond sets out to explain financial complexities and encourage fiscal responsibility. An irreverent and humorous writing style, along with spot art, boxed text, and the occasional speech bubble, keep the pace lively and the information accessible.

“It helped me understand things I never thought of before.” David, age 13

MEET THE 2012 SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marilyn Brien of San Antonio, Texas, is the chair for the 2013 VOYA Nonfiction Honor List. Brien has been reviewing nonfiction books for VOYA for twenty years. She is a retired teacher with thirty-five years of experience teaching natural and health sciences from sixth grade to twelfth grade. She served as department chair and participated in local, state, and national curriculum projects and teacher training. Currently, she is serving as a volunteer librarian for the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society. Other interests are traveling, RV camping, and bird watching.

Cynthia Rodriguez is a sixth grade English language arts teacher for the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD). Originally from El Paso, Texas, she was a 2010 Charter Corps Member with Teach for America and is currently in her third year of teaching at Longfellow Middle School. She is an AVID core teacher for an AVID National Demonstration School and has organized on-campus events, such as College Night, to help educate her school community about how to prepare for college. Currently, she is the UIL spelling coach, cheerleading sponsor, and a ballet teacher at a nearby studio. When she is not active on campus, she enjoys reading, writing poetry, watching movies, and eating.

Gilda Wise Duffy is a library media specialist with the SAISD in San Antonio, Texas. She has served the school district for thirty-six years as a middle and high school biology teacher, a theater arts teacher, an administrative assistant, and currently, as a librarian, allowing her the opportunity to have taught all grade levels. She is currently a member of the San Antonio Librarian's Association and was a past president. She is also a member of the San Antonio Conservation Society and is a Yellow Rose of Texas. Her interests are traveling, scrapbooking, entertaining, and cycling. She has found working on the 2013 VOYA Nonfiction Honor List to be an honor and a wonderful learning experience.

Tina M. Duffy has been a librarian for five years and this is her first time reviewing books for VOYA. She has served as an elementary librarian and is currently working in a middle school library for SAISD. Before becoming a librarian, she taught sixth and seventh grade science in SAISD for twelve years. Her interests include reading about true crime and mysteries, sports, and traveling.

Viki Ash has served as the coordinator of children's services for the San Antonio Public Library since the fall of 2005. She served in a similar capacity for the Spokane (WA) Public Library and the Corpus Christi (TX) Public Library prior to her move to San Antonio. She holds both an MLS (1983) and a PhD (1996) in Library and Information Science from the University of Texas at Austin and is a former faculty member at Texas Woman's University. An active member of the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children, Ash served on the 1990 Newbery Award Committee, the 2008 Sibert Award Committee, and chaired the 2012 Newbery Award Committee.