



The IB Middle Years Program at Deal Middle School



Recommended list of nonfiction memoirs:

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (990L)

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.

Enchanted Air by Margarita Engle (1120L)

Offers an account of the first fourteen years of the author's life in poems, telling of her time spent between her mother's native Cuba and her home in Los Angeles, until the revolution in Cuba dramatically alters relations between the two countries she loves.

Flesh & Blood so Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy by Albert Marrin (1000L)

Describes the conditions in the textile industry in the early twentieth century behind the fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company that led to the death of many young women, and explains its impact on the labor movement and on society.

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas (1030L)

An autobiography of growing up as an Iranian-American describes the author's family's 1971 move from Iran to Southern California, the members of her diverse family, and their struggle with culture shock.

Knucklehead by Jon Scieszka (750L)

Babysitting mishaps, lazy summer days by the lake, and silly childhood pranks are remembered in this amusing memoir of the life of an adventurous young boy growing up in a family with six brothers.

Little White Duck by Na Liu (710L)

A young girl describes her experiences growing up in China, beginning with the death of Chairman Mao in 1976.

March by John Lewis (760L)

A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

My Brief History by Stephen Hawking

The famous physicist details the events of his life and career, including attending Oxford and Cambridge, his ALS diagnosis, his study of black holes, and his penning of the bestselling "A Brief History of Time."

No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits by Jordan Romero (850L)

Romero recounts his experience of becoming the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest.

The Boy who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba (910L)

An adaptation for young readers of a best-selling memoir follows the experiences of 14-year-old William Kamkwamba, who built a windmill out of junkyard scraps to bring electricity to his famine-stricken Malawi village.

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club by Phillip Hoose (970L)

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. This novel includes mature content and may be more challenging.

The Distance Between Us (Young Readers Edition) by Reyna Grande (780L)

A memoir about Grande's childhood in Mexico, torn between two parents in two countries, and the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to "El Otro Lado" (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American Dream.

The Queen of Katwe: A Story of Life, Chess, and One Extraordinary Girl's Dream of Becoming a Grandmaster by Tim Crothers

Traces the story of an Ugandan teen who was introduced to chess by a missionary mentor and struggled to overcome formidable levels of poverty to become her country's national champion.

The Story of My Life: an Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky by Farah Ahmedi (850L)

Born in Kabul, Afghanistan at the peak of the war between the Soviet Union and the mujahideen, a young woman's memoir intertwines the story of her childhood in the war-torn country with her experiences as an Afghan American adolescent in Chicago.

To Dance by Siena Cherson Siegel (610L)

In graphic format, the author shares her story of how, after being diagnosed with flat feet, she decided to take ballet classes at the age of six and was accepted to the School of American Ballet when she was eleven.

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March by Lynda Blackmon Lowery (780L)

Shares the story of the youngest person to complete the Selma to Montgomery March, describing her frequent imprisonments for her participation in nonviolent demonstrations and how she felt about her involvement in Civil Rights events.

Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin (980L)

The story of the persecution of Native Americans, and about a group of young men who came together at a school that was designed to erase Indian cultures, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat.