

## Nonfiction Literature

Compiled by Peggy M. Johnsen  
2002-2003

### SCIENCE

Phineas Gage, A gruesome but True Story About Brain Science. John Fleischman. Houghton Mifflin. 2002.

Using the true story of Gage's injury to his brain, this book provides great brain research information. Index and resources.

A Cool Drink of Water. Barbara Kerley. National Geographic Society. 2002.

Everyone. Everywhere. A cool drink of water... emotional photos powerfully present the concept that all people of the world need a drink of water.

Atlantic. Brian Karas. G.P. Putnam. 2002.

Explore what the Atlantic Ocean is, how far it stretches, how the moon affects it, and other characteristics as described by the ocean itself. Art was prepared in gouache, acrylic, and pencil.

What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? Steve Jenkins & Robin Page. Houghton Mifflin. 2003.

Explore the many amazing things animals can do with their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails in this interactive guessing book.

Who Came First? New Clues to Prehistoric Americans. Patricia Lauber. National Geographic. 2003.

Lauber presents recent archaeological findings about the first people to settle the Americas, how they got here, and from what continents they came.

### BIOGRAPHY \* HISTORICAL STORIES

Harvesting Hope. Kathleen Krull. Harcourt Inc. 2003.

A biography of Cesar Chavez from age 10 when he and his family lived happily on their Arizona ranch to age 38 when he led a peaceful protest against California vineyard owners for migrant workers' miserable working conditions. Illustrations are acrylics, handmade stamps and computer created cutouts.

Mack Mad Movies. Don Brown. Roaring Brook Press. 2003.

Clever and comical illustrations tell the successful story of how Sennett moved from minor stage roles in 1916 and eventually became the director of the silent movie era. He created the Keystone Kops and introduced Charlie Chaplin to the world.

Confucius. Russell Freedman. Frederic Clement illus. Scholastic Press. 2002.

Fascinating, witty introduction to the life and teachings of Confucius.

What Charlie Heard. Mordicai Gerstein. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2002.

Describes the life of American composer Charles Ives, who wrote music which expressed all the sounds he heard in which was not well received during his lifetime.

Abraham Lincoln. Amy L.Cahn and Suzy Schmidt. Scholastic Press. 2002.

Sensitive and in depth portrayal of Lincoln. Water colors by Johnson are wonderful.

The Declaration of Independence. Sam Fink. Fantastic presentation of the document. Each page provides an illustration that assists the reader in understanding the phrase presented. Glossary, chronological events leading up to declaration and resources are provided. A must for an American history class.

Visiting Langston. Willie Perdomo. Bryan Collier (illus). Henry Holt & Co. 2002.

A great compliment to a study of Langston Hughes... written in poetry form. Fantastic illustrations. Coretta Scott King Honor book.

Ug: a boy of the Stone Age. Raymond Briggs. Alfred A. Knopf. 2001.

To the dismay of his parents and friends, a prehistoric boy continually thinks of making things softer, warmer, and nicer, rather than being content in a world of stone. Accurate information of Stone Age is cleverly presented. Fun!

The Pot that Juan Built. Nancy Andrew-Goebel. David Diaz (Illus). Lee & Low Books. 2002.

A cumulative rhyme summarizes the life's work of renowned Mexican potter, Juan Quezada. Additional information describes the process he uses to create his pots after the style of the Casas Grandes people.

Saladin, Noble Prince of Islam. Stanley, Diane. Harper Collins. 2002. 0-688-17135-4.

Once again Diane Stanley brings integrity and thoroughness to the nonfiction book. This is another in the series of her biographies of historical figures. This time she tells the biography of Saladin, presenting him as a hero whose compassion, piety, tolerance, and wisdom made him a model for his time. Gorgeous illustrations educate the reader in Islamic art.

Talkin' About Bessie, The story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman. Nikki Grimes. E.B. Lewis (illus.) Orchard Books. 2002.

This biography is told as a series of richly imagined monologues of twenty family and friends at Bessie's memorial for her death. Bessie became the first Afro-American woman licensed pilot. Loretta Scott King Winner

Rap A Tap Tap, Here's Bojanles-Think of That! Leo & Diane Dillon. Blue Sky Press. 2002.

A poetic and rhythmic celebration of Bill Robinson, who is known as the greatest tap dancer of all time. Afterword briefly tells his biography. Loretta Scott King Honor Book.

Action Jackson. Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan. Roaring Brook Press. 2002.

The "fictional" sequence of events during the months of May and June, 1950, when Jackson Pollock painted *Lavender Mist*. A photographic reproduction of the finished painting, a short biography, a bibliography, and a detailed list of notes and sources are provided.

When Marian Sang. Pam Munoz Ryan. Brian Selznick (illus.) Scholastic Press. 2002.

Another outstanding piece of literature on Marian Anderson graces our shelves! The message from this book is Marian's grace and dignity in spite of prejudice and hate. Information Award

John Coltrane's Giant Steps. Chris Raschka. Atheneum Books. 2002

John Coltrane's musical composition is performed by a box, a snowflake, some raindrops and a kitten. "He played the soprano saxophone and tenor saxophone and wrote music which, in his hands, became swirling, leaping, tumbling 'sheets of sound.'" Clever.

New York's Bravest. Mary Pope Osborne. Steve Johnson & Lou Francher (illus.) Alfred A. Knopf. 2002.

Tells of the heroic deeds of the legendary New York firefighter Mose Humphreys. Considered America's first urban folk hero.

Elizabeth's Song. Michael Wenberg. Cornelius Van Wright. Beyond Words Pub. 2002

A fictionalized account of how an eleven-year-old girl, Elizabeth "Libba" Cotton, saved to buy her first guitar and composed the popular folksong, "Freight Train" Includes a brief summary of her life's work and awards.

Frida. Jonah Winter. Ana Juan (illus) Scholastic Press (Arthur A. Levine Books). 2002

Madalena Carmen Fida Kahlo was born in Mexico in 1907. This is the story of how she learned to paint, how painting saved life, and why her paintings are like no one else's.

Woody Guthrie Poet of the People. Bonnie Christensen. Alfred A. Knopf. 2002.

Celebrates the life and times and the spirit of an American original. Illustrations truly catch the emotions and tone of the Great Depression.

Handel Who Knew What He Liked. M.T. Anderson. Candlewick Press. 2002.

A man who would later compose some of the world's most beautiful music is shown as a stubborn little boy with a mind of his own. Very reader friendly. Lots of information. Boston Globe Horn Book Award.

Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats. Simons & Swartz, Children's Museum, Boston. The Children's Museum, Boston. 2002. ISBN 0-15-201983-9.

This is a compilation of traditional stories, delicious recipes, and fun activities associated with five major Chinese Festivals. These were chosen to appeal to those interested building family traditions around Chinese culture.

The Orphans of Normandy, A True story of World War II told through drawings by children. Atheneum. 2003.

Relates how one hundred young schoolgirls, many of them orphans, and their teachers managed to escape the chaos of the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, by taking shelter in an iron mine for thirty-eight days and, after being forced out by the Germans, walking for twenty-nine days to reach safety behind Allied lines.

George Washington's Teeth. Deborah Chandra & Madeleine Comora. Farrar Straus Giroux. 2003.

All of his life George Washington had problems with his teeth and worked hard to save them. This story is based on what really happened to George and his teeth.

Fireboat, The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey. Maira Kalman. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 2002.

The John J. Harvey at one time was the largest, fastest, most modern fireboat. In 1995, it was put to pasture. However, after September 11, 2001, the retired boat was needed as all the fire hydrants were broken. Strong illustrations.

