

Recommended Nonfiction Books for Third Graders

Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln by Doreen Rappaport

JB LIN

An illustrated biography of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States and the man responsible for seeing the country through the Civil War.

Amelia to Zora: Twenty-six Women Who Changed the World by Cynthia Chin-Lee

J920.72 CHI

The author creates an alphabet book using the first names of the 26 women who have made impressive contributions to the world. The women came from different ethnic groups and countries.

Aliens are Coming! The True Account of the 1938 War of the Worlds Broadcast by Meghan McCarthy

J791.4472 MCC

A funny look at the true story of the 1938 Halloween radio prank that fooled most of the country into believing that Martians had invaded the planet. Includes excerpts from the radio broadcast and notes on the historical implications of the event.

Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People by Sheila Keenan

J636.0887 KEE

Tells the story of pets through the ages and the people who kept them, including famous pets and pet owners

Between Earth & Sky: Legends of Native American Sacred Places by Joseph Bruchac

J398.2 BRU

Through the guidance of his uncle and the retelling of various Native American legends, a young boy learns that everything living and inanimate has its place, should be considered sacred, and given respect.

The Boy on Fairfield Street by Kathleen Krull

JB SEU

This biography introduces the life of renowned children's author and illustrator Ted Geisel, popularly known as Dr. Seuss, focusing on his childhood and youth in Springfield, Massachusetts.

A Dazzling Display of Dogs by Betsy Franco

J811 FRA

This book is a collection of thirty-four concrete poems about dogs and their crazy canine behavior.

Farmer George Plants a Nation by Peggy Thomas

JB WAS

Describes how George Washington built his farm at Mount Vernon, discussing his experiments with seeds, fertilizers, and tools and presenting related letters and diary entries.

The Great Serum Race: Blazing the Iditarod Trail by Debbie S. Miller

J798.8 MIL

The story of the heroic role played by sled dogs, including the Siberian husky Togo, in the delivery of antitoxin serum to those stricken with diphtheria in the 1925 Nome. Includes historical notes about the event as well as about the Iditarod Sled Dog Race which commemorates it.

Gross Universe: Your Guide to All Disgusting Things Under the Sun by Jeff Szpirglas

J573 SZP

Gross Universe is an eye-opening, sometimes stomach-turning exploration of the many physical things about animals, plants, and -- of course -- young readers themselves that often go politely unmentioned. From mucus to vomit, from farts to phlegm, nothing is off-limits.

Guyku by Bob Raczka

J811 RAC

A humorous haiku collection perfect for guys (big and small) that celebrates outdoor fun throughout the seasons.

How Much is a Million? By David M. Schwartz

J513.2 SCH

Check out this book that helps you visualize how much a million, a billion, and a trillion look like/

Koko's Kitten by Francine Patterson

J599.884 PAT

Koko was a famous sign-language speaking gorilla from California. This is the true story of her friendship with a kitten.

Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood Story from China by Ed Young

J398.2 YOU

Exquisite illustrations accompany this Chinese folktale about a girl who outwits a nasty wolf and saves her sisters.

Meet Danitra Brown by Nikki Grimes

J811.54 GRI

Zuri Jackson wants readers to meet her friend, Danitra Brown, the “most splendiferous girl in town.” In thirteen spirited rhymes, Zuri narrates an unforgettable portrait of the many ways in which friends bring out the best in each other.

The New Kid on the Block by Jack Prelutsky

J811.54 PRE

This book contains over 100 hilarious poems about strange creatures and people –from jellyfish stew to a bouncing mouse, and a boneless chicken.

Nic Bishop's Lizards by Nic Bishop

J597.95 BIS

With breathtaking full-page images, including a double-gatefold spread, Sibert-Honor photographer Nic Bishop introduces the beauty and diversity of lizards. The simple, engaging text present both basic information and fun, quirky facts about the appearance, habits, and life cycle of these amazing reptiles.

Nic Bishop's Spiders by Nic Bishop

J595.44 BIS

This photo-rich book contains astonishing facts about spiders. For instance, did you know that the hairs on a spider's legs can sense touch or that spiders turn their preys' insides into soup?

Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City by Janet Schulman

J598.944 SCH

Recounts the true story of Pale Male, a red-tailed hawk living in New York City who has become one of the city's most-watched celebrities and bird watchers, tourists, and residents admire the bird and his nest, built on a Fifth Avenue apartment building.

Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow by Robert San Souci

J398.22 SAN

Retells, in easy text, of the Sheriff of Nottingham's plot to hold an archery contest in order to capture the outlaw Robin Hood, but Robin and his band of merry men arrive in disguise with a plan of their own.

Wild Tracks!: A Guide to Nature's Footprints by Jim Arnosky

J591.47 ARN

Presents detailed illustrations of life-size paw, claw, and hoof prints. Also explains how to identify tracks and determine how fast the animal might be traveling.