

Literary Genre Bibliography: Biography

Grades K-2

Conrad, Vicki. **Just Like Beverly: A Biography of Beverly Cleary**. Little Bigfoot, 2019. ISBN: 9781632172228 .

Summary: As a young girl, Beverly Cleary struggled to learn to read and found most children's books dull and uninteresting. She often wondered if there were any books about kids just like her. With hard work, and the encouragement of her parents and a special teacher, she learned to read and at a young age discovered she had a knack for writing. (excerpt from publisher summary)

Curricular use: This is a perfect example of growth mindset and the power of just *trying*. There is a companion "Growing in Greatness" series book called *Think Smart Be Fearless: A Biography of Bill Gates*, though it is not as favorably reviewed.

Audience: Grades 2-4. Older students and fans may appreciate the extensive endnotes and timeline.

Wang, Andrea. **Magic Ramen**. Little Bee Books, 2019. ISBN: 9781499807035.

Summary: Every day, Momofuku Ando would retire to his lab--a little shed in his backyard. For years, he'd dreamed about making a new kind of ramen noodle soup that was quick, convenient, and tasty for the hungry people he'd seen in line for a bowl on the black market following World War II. Peace follows from a full stomach, he believed. Day after day, Ando experimented. Night after night, he failed. But Ando kept experimenting. With persistence, creativity, and a little inspiration, Ando succeeded. This is the true story behind one of the world's most popular foods. (excerpt from publisher summary)

Curricular use: Use for lessons about growth mindset, persistence, inventors, chemical reactions, STEM, or diversity. Be sure to use the author's note, pronunciation guide, and afterword.

Audience: K-4

Grades 3-4

Maclear, Kyo. **It Began With a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way** . Harper, 2019. ISBN: 9780062447623.

Summary: During World War II, Gyo's family was forced to abandon everything and was taken to an internment camp in Arkansas. Far away from home, Gyo worked as an illustrator in New York while her innocent family was imprisoned. Seeing the diversity around her and feeling pangs from her own childhood, Gyo became determined to show all types of children in the pages of her books. Gyo's books paved the way for publishers, teachers, and readers to see what we can be when we welcome others into our world. (excerpt from publisher summary)

Curricular use: Lessons about Asian-Americans, gender roles, diversity, MCGF.

Audience: Grades 2-5

Winter, Jonah. **Thurgood**. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019. ISBN: 9781524765330.

Summary: Thurgood Marshall was a born lawyer--the loudest talker, funniest joke teller, and best arguer from the time he was a kid growing up in Baltimore in the early 1900s. He would go on to become the star of his high school and college debate teams, a stellar law student at Howard University, and, as a lawyer, a one-man weapon against the discriminatory laws against black Americans. After only two years at the NAACP, he was their top lawyer and had earned himself the nickname Mr. Civil Rights. He argued--and won--cases before the Supreme Court, including one of the most important cases in American history: *Brown v Board of Education*. And he became the first black U.S. Supreme Court Justice in history. (excerpt from publisher summary)

Curricular use: Excellent for use during Civil Rights, Black History Month, diversity, and government lessons. Many students recognize MLK Jr. and Rosa Parks; this book is a great vehicle to spark a discussion about civil rights workers who were already fighting decades before them.

Audience: Grades 3-6

Grades 5-6

Pincus, Meeg. **Miep and the Most Famous Diary: the Woman Who Rescued Anne Frank**. Sleeping Bear Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781534110250 .

Summary: The story of Anne Frank and her diary is one of the world's most important and well-known, but less is known about the woman who sheltered Anne and her family for years and, ultimately, rescued Anne's diary from Nazi clutches. Miep Gies was a woman who rose to bravery when humanity needed it and risked everything for her neighbors. It is because of Miep we know Anne Frank--and now, this is Miep's story. (excerpt from publisher summary)

Curricular use: Use for lessons connected to World War II, the power of the printed word, courage, and compassion. Be sure to read the "More About Miep's Courage" and timeline at the end.

Audience: Grades 3-6. If kids are not familiar with Anne Frank's diary, the timeline indicates that Anne's diary has been published in 70 languages, which will help them appreciate the magnitude of this diary.

Robeson, Teresa. **Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom**. Sterling Children's Books, 2019. ISBN: 9781454932208.

Summary: When Wu Chien Shiung was born in China 100 years ago, girls did not attend school. But her parents named their daughter "Courageous Hero" and encouraged her love of science. This biography follows Wu as she battles sexism at home and racism in the United States of America to become what Newsweek magazine called the "Queen of Physics" for her work on how atoms split. (from the publisher)

Curricular use: Use for lessons on gender roles, MCGF, diversity, scientific method, STEM. Be sure to read the endnotes and use the glossary.

Audience: Grades 4-6

Also rans:

Chaffee, Kim. **Her Fearless Run: Katherine Switzer's Historic Boston Marathon.** Page Street Kids, 2019. ISBN: 9781624146541.

Engle, Margarita. **Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreno Played the Piano for President Lincoln.** Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN: 9781481487405.

McGinty, Alice. **The Girl Who Named Pluto: the Story of Venetia Burney.** Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019. ISBN: 9781524768317.

Meadows, Michelle. **Brave Ballerina: the Story of Janet Collins.** Henry Holt and Company, 2019. ISBN: 9781250127730.

Slade, Suzanne. **A Computer Called Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Helped Put America on the Moon.** Little, Brown and Company, 2019. ISBN: 9780316435178.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. **Soldier for Equality: Jose de la Luz Saenz and the Great War.** Abrams Books for Young REaders, 2019. ISBN: 9781419736827.