

## Literary Genre Bibliography: Narrative Nonfiction

### Grades K-2

Chin, Jason. **Your Place in the Universe**. Holiday House/Neal Porter Books, 2020. ISBN:9780823446230.

**Summary:** Attempts to explain the size of the universe by comparing the size of an eight year old to the size of an ostrich, which is compared to redwood trees and so on up through the size of the planet, the stars, and the cosmos.

**Curricular use:** Could be used in an earth and space unit, as well as a unit about ecology, sociology, or math. Contains numerous philosophical, scientific, and mathematical concepts.

**Audience:** Text would be appropriate for grade 2-6. More mature readers would be able to dig deeper into existential concepts. Text serves as a great introduction to the concept of the cosmos for younger readers.

Fleming, Candice and Rohman, Eric. *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*. Holiday House, 2020. ISBN: 9780823442850

**Summary:** A picture book containing poetic text and illustrations showcasing the life cycle of a young honeybee. Includes a large diagram of a honeybee, and additional information on efforts to help honeybees today (Mackin, 2020).

**Curricular use:** Would be great in a unit teaching scientific observations. Importance of Conservation, and Environmental Impact on the loss of honeybees.

**Audience:** Appeals to younger students, but could also be a great middle grades book for research. K-4.

### Grades 3-4

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **How Women Won The Vote**. Harper Collins, 2020. ISBN: 9780062841308.

**Summary:** Tells the story in illustrations, primary source photograph, letters, and by describing the key events and women that contributed to the first women's march in 1913, and the passage of the 19th Amendment. Discusses how American suffragists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns met in a London prison while fighting for votes for women, and forged an eleven-year alliance that culminated in the march and eventually secured women's right to vote in 1920.

**Curricular use:** A great book to use for a research project because of the primary sources. Social Studies inquiry unit, or Women’s history unit.

**Audience:** Middle Grade readers. Grades 3-5 primarily.

Novesky, Amy. **Girl on a Motorcycle.** Viking, 2020. ISBN: 9780062356260.

**Summary:** Based on Anne-France Dautheville's solo ride around the world in the 1970s, this poetic journey follows an unnamed young Parisian of that era who makes good on her dream "to go Elsewhere." In two epic overland segments she travels across Canada, and then from Bombay to Paris—across vast prairies, deserts, and mountain ranges—stopping for warm encounters with local residents in many lands or (a realistic recurring theme) to repair her motorcycle, but mostly spending long hours alone (*School Library Journal*, 2020).

**Curricular use:** Would be an excellent companion to teaching the narrative arch. Could be used in a Geography lesson, or about little known explorers, and female adventurers. Illustrations could also provide a great opportunity for discussion.

**Audience:** Girl on a Motorcycle appeals to a wide range of ages. As young as grade 2, and up through adult readers. Truly an “Everyone” book.

## Grades 5-6

Smith, James Otis. **Black Heroes of the Wild West.** Toon Graphics, 2020. ISBN

**Summary:** This Graphic celebrates the story of three black heroes who took control of their destinies and stood up for their communities in the Old West. Born into slavery in Tennessee, Mary Fields became famous as “Stagecoach Mary,” a cigar-chomping, cardplaying coach driver who never missed a delivery. Bass Reeves, the first black Deputy US Marshal west of the Mississippi, was one of the wiliest lawmen in the territories, bringing thousands of outlaws to justice with his smarts. Bob Lemmons lived to be 99 years old and was so good with horses that the wild mustangs on the plains of Texas took him for one of their own. (Adapted from Toon Books.)

**Curricular use:** African American Biography Unit, American History, Women’s History.

**Audience:** Appeals to grades 5-6.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom.**  
Candlewick, 2020. ISBN:

**Summary:** Lyrical text in poetic stanzas with illustrations recount the life of Henry Brown, a slave who escaped to freedom by nailing himself in a freight box. Concludes with a timeline and additional information about the writing of the book (Mackin, 2020).

**Curricular use:** Poetry Unit, African American Biography, American History

**Audience:** Would appeal to grades 3-Adult. A very versatile nonfiction text.