

## Literary Genre Bibliography: Narrative Nonfiction

### Grades K-2

Sage, James. **Teddy: the Remarkable Tale of a President, a Cartoonist, , a Toymaker, and a Bear.** Kids Can Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781771387958..

**Summary:** Dage's plucky text relates the tale of President Theodore Roosevelt's refusal to shoot a bear during a hunting expedition, and how this act of mercy led to the 1902 version of a viral cartoon. In turn, the nation became smitten with everything bear, thus the Teddy Bear was born and lives on in popularity to this day, well over 100 years later.

**Curricular use:** This story would be a great springboard for discussions of cultural trends, especially in toys and consumer goods. It would tie in well to social studies units on economics and production..

**Audience:** Grades K-2

Arnold, Caroline. **Butterflies in Room 6: See How They Grow.** Charlesbridge, 2019. ISBN: 9781580898942.

**Summary:** This is the closest thing to being in the classroom and watching the butterflies grow yourself. Arnold, the author of **Hatching Chicks in Room 6**, returns with lovely close-up photos of each stage of metamorphosis, and also the students' delighted reactions. She includes just the right amount of detail in the main text and sidebars.

**Curricular use:** Students who are hatching butterflies, or have hatched them in the past, will enjoy seeing how it went in another real life class. For any student who has not had that chance this book is a must-have.

**Audience:** Grades K-2

### Grades 3-4

Byrd, Robert. **Liberty Arrives: How America's Grandest Statue Found Her Home.** Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN: 9780735230828.

**Summary:** Byrd's detailed ink and watercolor illustrations are the perfect medium to tell the story of Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi and his quest to produce a monument on the scale of an ancient colossus. This book details every step of the process that went into the design, fabrication and delivery of Lady Liberty, but also delves into the why, including the historical context of the end of slavery. Students will love reading about how school children sent their candy money to help fund the statue's pedestal!

**Curricular use:** A great tie in to U.S. History lessons and an example of what having an ally relationship with another country means.

**Audience:** Grades 2-6

Meeker, Clare Hodgson . **Growing Up Gorilla: How a Zoo Baby Brought Her Family Together.** Millbrook Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781541542402

**Summary:** Nadiri the gorilla was born in a zoo and rejected by her mother. Thus, when she gave birth to her first child, a daughter, she was unsure how to be a mother herself. This is the story of how the caring zookeepers at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle helped Nadiri learn to care for her baby, and how both were integrated into a larger gorilla family. Beautiful photos illustrate this moving portrayal of love in a magnificent species that shares 97.7 percent of their genes with us.

**Curricular use:** A wonderful animal study and also an interesting look into careers in zookeeping.

**Audience:** Grades 3-6

## Grades 5-6

Alexander, Lori. **All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World.** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019. ISBN: 9781328884206.

**Summary:** The history of science is always a fascinating topic, because what we think of as scientific fact is in reality in constant state of flux. This was certainly true in the time of Antony van Leewenhoek, an amateur scientist and the son of a basketmaker who, through independent research and experimentation, discovered “diertgens” (meaning little animals, or microbes) using homemade microscopes back in the 17th Century. Antony had to fight for scientific acceptance of his work, and ultimately prevailed thanks to passion and his dogged nature.

**Curricular use:** Any budding scientist or historian would enjoy this story of early scientific discovery. It is perfect to accompany the sixth grade Diversity of Life unit.

**Audience:** Grades 4-6

Sheinkin, Steve. **Born to Fly: the First Women’s Air Race Across America.** Roaring Brook Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781626721302.

**Summary:** If anyone were to suppose that women (and especially women in the early 20th Century) were timid, subservient, and content to stay behind the scenes at home, then they should read this book. The 1929 Air Derby was the first women’s race across the country and faced plenty of skepticism and opposition. This group of women was, simply put, fearless. They flew through fires and snakes in their cockpits, in temperatures of over 110 degrees, and under threat of sabotage. They were unstoppable! The story is by turns exhilarating and heartbreaking, and introduces us to a score of women every bit as colorful and inspiring as Amelia Earhardt.

**Curricular use:** Perfect for MCGF teaching and history of aviation and machines.

**Audience:** Grades 5-8