



BIOGRAPHIES AND BOOKS BASED ON TRUE STORIES OF STRONG OR DETERMINED GIRLS WHO CHALLENGED EXPECTATIONS

David A. Adler & Robert Casilla (Illustrator), *A Picture Book of Rosa Parks*, Holiday House, 1995.

Explores both her childhood and adult life. Adler makes it obvious that her role in the civil rights movement did not begin and end on a bus, but rather lasted throughout her life.

Marsha Amstel & Ellen Beier (Illustrator), *Sybil Ludington's Midnight Ride*, Carolrhoda Books, 2000.

The story of Sybil Ludington's ride on horseback to rouse American soldiers to fight against the British who were attacking Danbury, Conn., during the American Revolution.

Catherine M. Andronik & Joseph Daniel Fiedler (Illustrator), *Hatshepsut, His Majesty, Herself*, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002.

Tells the story of Hatshepsut, Egypt's only successful female pharaoh.

Jeannine Atkins & Dusan Petricic (Illustrator), *How High Can We Climb? The Story of Women Explorers*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

These tales of sailors, cavers, mountain climbers, deep-sea divers, and other explorers come from across the globe, and their lives span about 240 years.

Jeannine Atkins & Paula Conner, *Girls Who Looked Under Rocks: The Lives of Six Pioneering Naturalists*, Dawn Publications, 2000.

The six women portrayed in this book all grew up to become award-winning scientists, writers and artists, as comfortable with a pen as with a magnifying glass. They all started out as girls who didn't run from spiders or snakes, but crouched down to take a closer look.

T. A. Barron. & Ted Lewin (Illustrator), *High as a Hawk: A Brave Girl's Historic Climb*, Philomel Books, 2004.

Based on the historic 1905 ascent of the youngest person ever to climb Longs Peak in Colorado. as an eight-year-old girl fulfills her late mother's dream.

Louise Borden and Mary Kay Kroeger & Teresa Flavin (Illustrator), *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*, Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2001.

This evocative picture book introduces Bessie Coleman, the first African American to earn a pilot's license. She worked hard to realize dreams and felt responsible for encouraging other African Americans to aim high.

Shirin Yim Bridges & Sophie Blackall (Illustrator), *Ruby's Wish*, Chronicle Books, 2002.

Ruby is unlike most little girls in old China. Instead of aspiring to get married, Ruby is determined to attend university, just like the boys in her family. Based on the inspirational story of the author's grandmother, this is an engaging portrait of a young girl who strives for more and a family who rewards her hard work and courage.

Veronica Chambers & Julie Maren (Illus.), *Celia Cruz, Queen of Salsa*, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2006.

Singer Celia Cruz's Afro-Cuban music of the 1950s evolved into the salsa boom of the 1970s. The story of her dream to be a professional singer describes how one poor, young girl became a "queen" through talent, hard work, creativity, and spirit.

Cynthia Chin-Lee, *Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World*, Charlesbridge Publishers, 2005. From well-known Oprah Winfrey to lesser known Nawal El Sadaawi, 26 extraordinary women are spotlighted in this richly illustrated, mixed media picture book.

Catherine Clinton & Sean Qualls (Illustrator), *Phillis's Big Test*, Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

In 1773, Phillis Wheatley published a book of poetry. It was a great accomplishment that made her very famous. Only a year before, Phillis had had to take a test to prove that she was the actual author of these poems, because Phillis Wheatley was a slave.

Matt Christopher, *In the Goal With ... Briana Scurry*, Little, Brown, 2000.

The goalkeeper for the U.S. Women's national team, who squared off against China's five best penalty kickers in a shootout to determine the winner of the 1999 Women's World Cup.

Matt Christopher, *On the Field With... Mia Hamm*, Tandem Library, 1999.

A biography of one of the top female soccer players in the country, Mia Hamm, who helped the United States win a gold medal in soccer in the 1996 Olympics.

Matt Christopher, *On The Court With... Venus And Serena Williams*, Tandem Library, 2002.

The Williams sisters have captured the attention of the tennis crowd like no one has in recent years. Taken alone, each is a force to be reckoned with on the court. Each has the skills, the determination, and the strength to make it to the very top of her sport.

Robert Coles, *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, Scholastic Paperbacks, 2004.

For months, six-year-old Ruby Bridges must confront the hostility of segregationists when she becomes the first African American girl to integrate Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960.

Barbara Cooney, *Eleanor*, Puffin, 1999.

Although she came from a wealthy and privileged family, Eleanor Roosevelt grew up in a cheerless household that left her lonely and shy. Years passed before she began to discover in herself the qualities of intelligence, compassion and strength that made her a remarkable woman.

Shana Corey & Rebecca Gibbon (Illustrator), *Players in Pigtails*, Scholastic Paperbacks, 2006.

Katie Casey, a fictional character, helps start the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which gave women the opportunity to play professional baseball while America was involved in World War II.

Shana Corey, *You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer: A Very Improper Story*, Scholastic Press, 2000.

Amelia Bloomer, who does not behave the way nineteenth-century society tells her a proper lady should, introduces pantaloons to women to save them from the discomfort of their heavy, tight dresses.

Julie Cummings, *Blanche Stuart Scott*, HarperCollins, 2002.

Blanche Scott, considered by many to be the first woman to fly, opened the door of opportunity for other women pilots. The biography captures the public disapproval and the forbidding attitude of men that Blanche had to endure. Timeline of Women Pilots.

Pamela J. Dell, *Wilma Mankiller: Chief of the Cherokee Nation*, Coughlan Publishing, 2006.

Traces Mankiller's birth in rural Oklahoma, her adolescence and early adulthood in San Francisco, and discusses how she overcame many hardships to become an activist and leader of her people.



Demi, *Mother Teresa*, Margaret K. McElderry, 2005.

Founder of the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, she came to be known as Mother Teresa and oversaw thousands of nuns as they ministered to the poor, the starving, and the dying. Received the United States Medal of Honor and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Philip Dray, *Yours for Justice, Ida B. Wells: The Daring Life of a Crusading Journalist*, Peachtree Publishers, 2008.

Philip Dray and Stephen Alcorn re-create the tensions that threatened to upend the nation a century ago while paying tribute to a courageous American hero.

DK Biography A Photographic Story of a Life Series:

Amelia Earhart, Tanya Stone, DK CHILDREN, 2007.

Joan of Arc, Kathleen V. Kudlinski, DK CHILDREN, 2008.

Annie Oakley, Charles M. Wills, DK CHILDREN, 2007.

Eleanor Roosevelt, Kem Knapp Sawyer, DK CHILDREN, 2006.

Lynda Durrant, *My Last Skirt: The Story of Jennie Hodgers*, Union Soldier, Clarion, 2006.

Once Jennie Hodgers dons boy's clothing, she starts a new life that takes her from sheep-tending in Belfast, Ireland, to the battlefields of the American Civil War.

Amy Ehrlich & Wendell Minor (Illustrator), *Rachel: The Story of Rachel Carson*, Silver Whistle, 2003.

Rachel Carson was always curious about the world around her. As a girl she loved being outside, exploring and wanting to know more about the universe. As an adult Rachel wrote books about what she loved, including *Silent Spring*, a book that changed the world.

Elizabeth Etue, *Hayley Wickenheiser: Born to Play*, Kids Can Press, 2005.

Hayley Wickenheiser overcame gender bias to become the first North American woman to play professional hockey and be a key player on Canada's gold medal women's hockey team at the 2000 Salt Lake City Olympics.

Pam Flowers, Ann Dixon & Bill Farnsworth (Illustrator), *Big-Enough Anna*, Alaska Northwest Books, 2003.

Anna may be the smallest dog in the litter, but she's surely the most determined. She joins a dog team for a 2,500-mile expedition across the top of the world with the first woman to cross the Arctic alone. When the lead dog becomes lost, it's up to Anna to take his place. Will she have what it takes to ensure the survival of all?

Michelle Y. Green, *A Strong Right Arm*, Puffin, 2004.

Motivated by her love for the game and inspired by the legendary Jackie Robinson, Mamie Johnson is determined to be a professional baseball pitcher. But in a sport that's dominated by white men, there is no place for a black woman. Mamie doesn't give up.

Lila Guzman & Rick Guzman (Illustrator), *Ellen Ochoa: First Latina Astronaut*, Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2006.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Ochoa excelled in school and went on to be an electrical engineer, inventor and pilot, but always dreamed of being an astronaut.

Cheryl Harness, *Rabble Rousers: 20 Women Who Made a Difference*, Dutton Juvenile, 2003.

Documents the lives and accomplishments of a select group of women activists; their stories demonstrate that dissent plays an essential role in our national pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.



Deborah Hopkinson & Terry Widener (Illustrator), *Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings*, Anne Schwartz Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004.

In the early 1900s, Alta Weiss, a young woman who knows from an early age that she loves baseball, finds a way to show that she can play, even though she is a girl.

Deborah Hopkinson, *Maria's Comet*. Aladdin, 2003.

As a young girl, budding astronomer Maria Mitchell dreams of searching the night sky and some day finding a new comet.

Crystal Hubbard, *Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream*, Lee and Low, 2005.

The spirited story of Marcenia Lyle, the African American girl who grew up to become “Toni Stone,” the first woman to play for a professional baseball team.

Kate Boehm Jerome & David Cain (Illustrator), *Who Was Amelia Earhart?* Grosset & Dunlap, 2002.

Amelia Earhart was a woman of many firsts. In 1932, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and the Pacific. This book takes you from her early years to her mysterious 1937 disappearance while attempting to fly around the world.

Suzanne Jurmain, *The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.

This is an extraordinary history of the Canterbury Female Boarding School in Connecticut and its founder, who stood trial for the crime of teaching African American girls geography, reading, and chemistry.

Verla Kay, *Rough, Tough Charley*, Tricycle Press, 2007.

Stagecoach driver Charley Parkhurst spoke few words but rode many miles. Throughout the West, folks trusted and respected Charley, despite his crusty demeanor. Only in death was Charley's life-long secret revealed — he was a woman.

Barbara Kramer, *Mahalia Jackson: The Voice of Gospel and Civil Rights*, Enslow Publishers, 2003.

The story of the renowned gospel singer who used her singing to help further the cause of civil rights.

Kathleen Krull & Kathryn Hewitt (Illustrator), *Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought)*, Harcourt Children's Books, 2000.

Turns the spotlight on women who have wielded power, revealing their feats--and flaws. Here you'll find twenty of the most influential women in history: queens, warriors, prime ministers, first ladies, revolutionary leaders. Some are revered. Others are notorious.

Kathleen Krull & David Diaz (Illustrator), *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman*, Voyager Books, 2000.

Before Wilma was 5 years old, polio paralyzed her left leg. Everyone said she would never walk again. Wilma refused to believe it. Not only would she walk, she vowed, she'd run. She run — all the way to the Olympics, where she became the first American woman to earn three gold medals in a single Olympiad.

Kathleen Krull, *A Woman for President: The Story of Victoria Woodhull*, Walker, 2004.

Picture-book biography of the life of the first woman to run for president, have a seat on the stock exchange, own a newspaper, and speak before Congress.



Kathryn Lasky, *A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet*, Candlewick, 2003.

A biography of an African girl brought to New England as a slave who became famous as the first black poet in America.

Kathryn Lasky & Nneka Bennett (Illustrator), *Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker*, Candlewick, 2007.

A vision of dignity and freedom and a powerful role model for girls and women of all races. One of the most successful women entrepreneurs in the United States. She became the richest African-American woman of her times and a major philanthropist.

J. Patrick Lewis & Jim Cooke (Illustrator), *Heroes and She-roes: Poems of Amazing and Everyday Heroes*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2005.

A collection of poems depicting some of the most well known—as well as unknown—heroes in our lives.

Reeve Lindbergh & Pamela Paparone (Illustrator), *Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of “Brave Bessie” Coleman*, Candlewick Press, 1998.

A rhyming tale of the life of the first African-American aviator, who dreamed of flying as a child in the cotton fields of Texas and persevered until she made that dream come true.

D. Anne Love, *Of Numbers and Stars: The Story of Hypatia*, Holiday House, 2006.

The most famous and influential mathematician and philosopher of ancient Alexandria was Hypatia — a woman.

Linda Lowery & Janice Lee Porter (Illustrator), *Wilma Mankiller*, Carolrhoda Books, 1996. When Wilma moved with her family from rural Oklahoma to a strange, new city, she knew one day she would return. Until then, she searched for strength in her Cherokee heritage. When she grew up she became Chief Mankiller, leader of the Cherokee Nation from 1985 to 1995.

Emily Arnold McCully, *The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2007.

Young Oney Judge risks everything to escape a life of slavery in the household of George and Martha Washington and to make her own way as a free black woman.

Emily Arnold McCully, *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2006.

With her sketchbook labeled My Inventions and her father’s toolbox, Mattie could make almost anything. This introduction to one of the most prolific female inventors will leave readers inspired.

Emily Arnold McCully, *Beautiful Warrior*, Arthur A. Levine Books, 1998.

The story of two legendary female kung fu masters who may have lived in the last part of the 17th century.

Alice McGill and Chris K. Soentpiet, *Molly Bannaky*, Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

Tells the story of Benjamin Banneker’s grandmother as she journeyed from England to Maryland in the late 17th century, worked as an indentured servant, began a farm of her own and married a freed slave.

Ann McGovern & R.M. Powers (Illustrator), *Wanted Dead Or Alive: The True Story Of Harriet Tubman*, Scholastic Paperbacks, 1991.

Born a slave, Harriet Tubman dreamed of following the North Star to freedom. When she did escape, she risked her life many times to help 300 slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad.



Stephanie Sammartino McPherson & Karen Ritz (Illustrator), *Sisters Against Slavery: A Story About Sarah and Angelina Grimke*, Carolrhoda Books, 2004.

A biography of two sisters from a wealthy southern family who devoted their lives to the causes of abolition and women's rights.

Marissa Moss & C. F. Payne (Illustrator), *Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen*, Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2004.

On April 2, 1931, in Tennessee, the New York Yankees played an exhibition game against the Chattanooga Lookouts. Their pitcher was a 17-year-old young woman named Jackie Mitchell, and that day she struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Pam Muñoz Ryan & Brian Selznick (Illus.), *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*, Scholastic Press, 1999.

One evening in April 1933, Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt stole away from a White House dinner, commandeered an airplane and took off on a glorious adventure. Celebrates the courage and pioneering spirit of two great friends and American heroes.

Pam Muñoz Ryan, *Riding Freedom*, Blue Sky Press, 2002.

A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance. Discussion Guide:

www.pammunozryan.com/free.html

Pam Muñoz Ryan & Brian Selznick (Illustrator), *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson*, Scholastic Press, 2002.

An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, the extraordinary singer and civil rights activist who was the first African-American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, and whose life and career encouraged social change.

Walter Dean Myers, *At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England*, Scholastic, 1999.

Myers reconstructs the story of Sarah Forbes Bonetta, a child of royal African descent who was rescued by a British sea-captain. A celebrity of her day, Sarah became goddaughter of Queen Victoria.

Rosa Parks, Jim Haskins & Wil Clay (Illustrator), *I Am Rosa Parks*, Puffin, 1999.

The famous civil rights activist has simplified her YA autobiography. Parks shows that her personal role was part of a wider political struggle

Claire A. Nivola, *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2008.

Winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Green Belt Movement, Wangari Maathai grew up in the highlands of Kenya. When she returned home from college in America, she found the village gardens dry, the people malnourished, and the trees gone. How could she bring back the trees and restore the gardens and the people?

Andrea Davis Pinkney & Brian Pinkney (Illustrator), *Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa*, Jump at the Sun, 2002.

Narrated by Scat Cat Monroe, a feline in a zoot suit, this book spins four “tracks” on Fitzgerald’s life, from her childhood in Yonkers, to her discovery at the legendary Apollo Theatre, to her move into the “ping-pong rhythms” of bebop.



Andrea Davis Pinkney & Stephen Alcorn (Illustrator) *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*, Scholastic, Inc, 2001.

The lives these women led are part of an incredible story about courage in the face of oppression; about the challenges and triumphs of the battle for civil rights; and about speaking out for what you believe in even when it feels like no one is listening.

Charlotte Pomerantz & Tony Chen (Illustrator), *The Princess and the Admiral*, Feminist Press, 1992.

When a fleet of warships attacks the Tiny Kingdom, a clever young princess uses ingenuity to preserve her kingdom's 100 years of peace. Based on a 13th-century incident involving Kublai Khan and Vietnam.

Elizabeth Raum, *Mae Jemison*, Heinemann, 2005.

In 1992 Jemison became the first African American woman in space.

Robert D. San Souci & Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng (Illustrators), *Fa Mulan: The Story of a Woman Warrior*, Hyperion, 2000.

A retelling of the original Chinese poem in which a brave young girl masquerades as a boy and fights the Tartars in the Khan's army.

Pegi Deitz Shea & Bethanne Andersen (Illustrator), *Patience Wright: America's First Sculptor and Revolutionary Spy*, Henry Holt and Company, 2007.

While collecting clients in her wax sculpting business in the American Colonies and Great Britain, Patience Wright served as one of the most effective spies in the American Revolution, helping to change the course of battles.

Stephanie Spinner, Larry Day (Illustrator) & Nancy Harrison (Illustrator), *Who Was Annie Oakley?* Grosset & Dunlap, 2002.

Born in 1860, she became one of the best-loved and most famous women of her generation. She amazed audiences with her sharpshooting, horse-riding, action-packed performances. In an age when most women stayed home, she traveled the world and forged a new image for American women.

Sue Stauffacher & Greg Couch (Illustrator), *Nothing but Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson*, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Althea Gibson was the first African American to compete in and win the Wimbledon Cup.

Jane Sutcliffe & Jeni Reeves (Illustrator), *Babe Didrikson Zaharias: All-Around Athlete* Carolrhoda Books, 2000.

Babe was running and jumping hedges at the age of eight. With a dedication to training she became one of the greatest woman athletes of the century. She won two gold medals and one silver medal in track and field at the 1932 Olympics. She excelled in every sport that she played.

Gwenyth Swain & Matthew Archambault (Illustrator), *Sojourner Truth*, Lerner Publishing, 2005.

Isabella changed her name to Sojourner Truth because she "was to travel up an' down this land ... to declare truth to the people." Speaking out for God, against slavery and for women's rights, her moving speeches inspired hope and change for many that heard her.

Sheryl Swoopes & Susan Kuklin, *Hoops with Swoopes: Picture Book*, Jump at the Sun, 2001.

The 2000 WNBA champion and MVP takes center court in this simple, vigorous introduction to basketball with soaring photographs of Swoopes and bright, bold typography.



Catherine Thimmesh & Melissa Sweet (Illustrator), *Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2002.

In kitchens and living rooms, in garages and labs and basements, even in converted chicken coops, women and girls have invented ingenious innovations that have made our lives simpler and better.

Catherine Thimmesh & Douglas Jones (Illustrator), *Madam President: The Extraordinary, True (and Evolving) Story of Women in Politics*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.

Women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Geraldine Ferraro, and Nancy Pelosi have given women a public voice, while others have shaped political history without the recognition they deserved—until now.

Sally Walker, *Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter*, First Avenue Editions, 2006.

Describes the life of Mary Anning, who discovered many of the best and most complete fossils in nineteenth-century England, yet received little credit for her work.

Rosemary Wells, *Mary on Horseback: Three Mountain Stories*, Puffin, 2000.

Trained as a nurse during World War I, Mary Breckinridge, went to the isolated mountains of Appalachia, where she started a medical service-on horseback. Three moving short stories show how Mary's determined spirit saved hundreds of lives.

Margaret K. Wetterer & Karen Ritz (Illustrator), *Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express*, Carolrhoda Books, 2000.

A vivid recounting of a true story of a young girl in 1881. Fifteen-year-old Kate risks her life during a storm to prevent a train disaster and save the lives of 200 people.

Linda Arms White & Nancy Carpenter (Illustrator), *I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux/Melanie Kroupa Books, 2006.

Full of determination and self-reliance, Esther meets each of life's challenges head-on. She helps get women the right to vote in Wyoming, and becomes a justice of the peace, the first woman in the United States to hold political office.

Jeanette Winter, *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*, Harcourt Children's Books, 2005.

Alia Muhammad Baker fears that the library, along with the 30,000 books within it, will be destroyed forever. In a war-stricken country where civilians, especially women, have little power, she struggles to save her community's priceless collection of books.

Adam Woog. *Jyotirmayee Mohapatra: Advocate for India's Young Women*, Kidhaven Press, 2006.

A young woman from a rural Indian village inspires people around the world when she creates a girl's club that transforms not only the girls involved but also communities throughout India.

Evangelina Parsons Yazzie & Irving Toddy (Illustrator), *Dzání Yázhí Naazbaa': Little Woman Warrior Who Came Home*, Salina Bookshelf, 2006.

Based on the story of a young Navajo girl who is abducted by soldiers, taken to Fort Sumner, and forced to walk to Bosque Redondo, nearly 450 miles from her home. Written in Navajo as well as English.

