

Grades K-5 Biographies and Autobiographies Reading List 2021
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Benson, Kathleen. **Draw What You See**, 2015. JBIO ANDREWS,B B474d

Introduces readers to Benny Andrews, one of the most important African-American painters of the 20th century.

Bryant, Jennifer. **The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus**, 2014. JBIO ROGET,P B915r

The story of shy young Peter Mark Roget, [for whom] books were the best companions--and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and turned it to organizing ideas and finding exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time.

Cardillo, Margaret. **Just Being Audrey**, 2011. JBIO HEPBURN,A C267j

Illustrations and text describe the life of Audrey Hepburn, beginning with her childhood, and describing her life in Nazi-occupied Holland, her dreams of becoming a prima ballerina, her success as an actress, and her efforts to help the world's children through UNICEF.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. **Before She Was Harriet**, 2017. JBIO TUBMAN,H C641b

A lush and lyrical biography of Harriet Tubman, written in verse. An evocative poem and opulent watercolors come together to honor a woman of humble origins whose courage and compassion make her larger than life.

Hill, Laban Carrick. **When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop**, 2013. JBIO KOOL_DJ H646w

Before there was hip hop, there was DJ Kool Herc. On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973 Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks in the musical interludes between verses longer for dancing.

Kehret, Peg. **Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio**, 1996. JRL KEHRET,P K26s

The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

McCully, Emily. **Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor**, 2006. JBIO KNIGHT,M M133m

Meet the woman known as "the Lady Edison." Mattie Knight loved to make things ranging from a foot warmer for her mother or toys for her older brothers. Or, when she was 12, a metal guard to prevent shuttles from shooting off looms and hurting workers. Later, Mattie invented a machine that could cut and glue the square-bottomed paper bags, a machine we still use today.

Mosca, Julia Finley. **The Girl with the Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague**, 2018. JBIO MONTAGU,R M894g

This is a rhyming-text picture book about Raye Montague. After touring a German submarine in the early 1940s, young Raye set her sights on becoming an engineer. Little did she know sexism and racial inequality would challenge that dream every step of the way, even keeping her greatest career accomplishment a secret for decades. Through it all, the gifted mathematician persisted-- finally gaining her well-deserved title in history: a pioneer who changed the course of ship design forever.

Nienow, Tootie. **There Goes Patti McGee! The Story of the First Women's National Skateboard Champion**, 2021. JBIO MCGEE,P N673t

A biography of the first-ever professional female skateboarder and winner of the 1964 National Skateboard Championship for Women.

Powell, Patricia Hruby. **Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker**, 2014. JBIO BAKER,J P885j

A portrait of the passionate performer and civil rights advocate Josephine Baker, the woman who worked her way from the slums of St. Louis to the grandest stages in the world. Meticulously researched by both author and artist, Josephine's powerful story of struggle and triumph is an inspiration and a spectacle, just like the legend herself.

Rabinowitz, Alan. **A Boy and His Jaguar**, 2014. JBIO RABINOW,A R116b

The renowned cat conservationist reflects on his early childhood struggles with a speech disorder, describing how he only spoke fluently when he was communicating with animals and how he resolved at a young age to find his voice to be their advocate.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. **Maya Lin: Thinking with Her Hands**, 2017. JBIO LIN,M R896t

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. is one of the most famous memorials in the world. But most people are not as familiar with the college student who won the design competition to build it. This carefully researched volume chronicles Maya Lin's childhood, her battle to create the memorial as she envisioned it, and the incredible body of work she has produced since then. More than simply an art book, this compelling biography of a young woman who became a visionary artist and activist is also a timely celebration of the role of women and minorities in American society--past, present, and future.

Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up**, 2008. JBIO SCIESZK,J Sci416k

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.

Sidman, Joyce. **The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science**, 2018. JBIO MERIAN,M Si568g

Newbery-Honor winning author Joyce Sidman explores the extraordinary life and scientific discoveries of Maria Merian, who discovered the truth about metamorphosis and documented the science behind the mystery in this visual biography that features many original paintings by Maria herself.

Sisson, Stephanie Roth. **Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos**, 2014. JBIO SAGAN,C Si623s

A biography of Carl Sagan focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission and the Golden Record.

Ventura, Marne. **Astrophysicist and Space Advocate Neil deGrasse Tyson**, 2014. JBIO TYSON,N V468a
Presents the life of the astrophysicist, including his childhood in the Bronx, his academic career, and his status as a scientific expert.

Wallmark, Laurie. **Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code**, 2017. JBIO HOPPER,G W214g
A children's biography of Grace Hopper, who played a prominent role in the early days of computers.

Yousafzai, Malala. **I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World**, 2014. JBIO YOUSAFZ,M Y82i

I Am Malala. This is my story. Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize nominee.