

BIOGRAPHIES FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY

Can't find the right biography for you?

This list contains well-written biographies of people you may have not thought of.

All books in this list have 100 or more pages.

There are many more biographies in Non Fiction +921 (and other places - please ask!)

Adler, David A. ***B. Franklin, Printer***

126 p. +921 Fra

Benjamin Franklin was brilliant in many different fields; he was a printer, inventor, writer, scientist and statesman.

Allen, Thomas B. ***Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War***

191 p. +973.7115 All

This small but packed volume tells of Harriet Tubman's astonishing roles as spy, secret agent, and military leader. It combines her personal story with a history of the abolitionist movement and the Civil War, focusing on how ex-slaves and free blacks served the Union cause.

Bolden, Tonya. ***M.L.K.: Journey of a King***

128 p. +921 Kin

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Nobel Peace Prize winner, renowned orator, and a key figure in U.S. civil rights movement.

Bruce, Harry ***Maud: The Life of L.M. Montgomery***

166 p. +921 Mon

Describes the private life and literary career of the Canadian writer best known for her novels about Anne, a girl from Prince Edward Island.

Cleary, Beverly ***A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir / Beverly Cleary***

279 p. +921 Cle

Follows the popular children's author from her childhood years in Oregon through high school and into young adulthood, highlighting her family life and her growing interest in writing.

Dell, Pamela. ***Wilma Mankiller: Chief of the Cherokee Nation***

108 p. +921 Man

Wilma Mankiller was the first woman elected to lead the Cherokee Nation.

Donnelly, Karen. ***Deacon Jones***

100 p. +921 Jon

Profiles the Los Angeles Rams' football player whose techniques changed the way coaches and fans thought about defense and caused him to be named "Defensive End of the Century" by Sports Illustrated.

Filipovic, Zlata. ***Zlata's Dairy: A Child's Life in Sarajevo***

197 p. +921 Filipovi

Zlanta Filipovic, known as the "Anne Frank of Sarajevo", wrote her diary from 1991 to 1993. She describes the horrors of war as seen through the eyes of an innocent child.

Fleischman, Sid. ***The Abracadabra Kid: A Writer's Life***

198 p. +921 Fle

The autobiography of Sid Fleischman, a Newbery award-winning children's author who set out from childhood to be a magician.

Fleischman, Sid. ***Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini***

210 p. +921 Houdini

This is an engaging and informative biography of the Great Harry Houdini. Don't let the number of pages scare you away from this book- it has widely spaced type and many pictures!

Freedman, Russell ***Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery***

198 p. +921 Roo

A photobiography of the first wife of a president to have a public life and career of her own. A Newbery Honor book.

Gallagher, Aileen. ***Walter Payton***

112 p. +921 Pay

A biography of the record-setting Chicago Bears fullback known as "Sweetness".

George, Jean Craighead. ***The Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets***

134 p. +921 George

Jean Craighead George is an author of many children's books, and a Newbery Medal and Honor winner. *The Tarantula in My Purse* is her collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.

Giblin, James. ***Charles A. Lindbergh: A Human Hero***

212 p. +921 Lin

A biography of the pilot whose life was full of controversy and tragedy, but also fulfilling achievements.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. ***Don't Tell the Girls: A Family Memoir***

131 p. +921 Gif

Newbery Honor-winning author, Patricia Reilly Giff, recounts her discoveries as she unravels some of the mysteries of her Irish ancestors.

Green, Michelle Y. ***A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson***

105 p. +921 Joh

Mamie "Peanut" Johnson was one of three women to play professional baseball for the 1950's Negro Leagues.

Haugen, Brenda. ***Jane Goodall: Legendary Primatologist***

112 p. +921 Goo

Read about the life of the legendary primatologist, Jane Goodall--the woman whose observations of chimpanzees in the wild changed many of the world's beliefs about these animals.

Haugen, Brenda. ***Langston Hughes: The Voice of Harlem***

108 p. +921 Hug

Read about the life of the famous African American poet.

Hillman, Laura. ***I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree: Memoir of a Schindler's List Survivor***

243p. +921 Hillman

A Holocaust memoir of a teenager's survival in the concentration camps. **For mature readers.*

Huynh, Quang Nhuong. ***The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam***

127 p. +921 Huy

A collection of personal reminiscences of the author's youth in a hamlet on the central highlands of Vietnam.

Lawlor, Laurie. ***Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit***

168 p. +921 Kel

This biography covers the complete life of Helen Keller, a deaf and blind girl who later in life graduated college, and became a lecturer, entertainer, and activist.

Lekuton, Joseph Lemasolai. ***Facing the Lion: Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna***

127 p. +921 Lek

A member of the Masai people describes his life as he grew up in a northern Kenya village, traveled to America to attend college, and became an elementary school teacher in Virginia.

Levine, Ellen. ***Anna Pavlova: Genius of the Dance***

132 p. +921 Pav

This biography of Anna Pavlova should appeal to those who love dance and are interested in the performing arts.

Medicine Crow, Joseph. ***Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond***

128 p. +921 Med

Meet Joseph Medicine Crow, a man raised in two worlds: according to the Crow Indian traditions and according to white man's rules.

Pace, Mildred Mastin. ***Juliette Low: Founder of the Girl Scouts of America***

202 p. +921 Low

Traces the life of the founder of the Girl Scouts in America from her girlhood in Savannah, Georgia during the Civil War to her death in 1927.

Ma, Yan. ***The Diary of Ma Yan: The Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl***

166 p. +921 Ma

Thirteen year old Ma Yan, from rural China, writes a diary about her struggles for a better life, and the desire to go to school.

McCormack, Shaun. ***Willie Mays***

112 p. +921 May

Examines the personal life and baseball career of the man considered by many sports experts to be the greatest baseball player of all time.

Neimark, Anne E. ***A Deaf Child Listened: Thomas Gallaudet, Pioneer in American Education***

106 p. +921 Gal

A biography of a man whose pioneering efforts in educating deaf children in the early part of the nineteenth century are still being felt today.

Parks, Rosa. ***Rosa Parks: My Story***

192 p. +921 Par

By refusing to give up her seat on a bus, Rosa Parks was instrumental in fueling the civil rights movement.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Caught by the Sea: My Life on Boats***

103 p. +921 Pau

Gary Paulsen is an author of many children's books, and a Newbery Honor winner. *Caught by the Sea* is his action packed real life adventure about his first voyage to sea.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Guts: The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books***

160 p. +921 Pau

Gary Paulsen is an author of many children's books, and a Newbery Honor winner for *Hatchet*. In *Guts* he reveals the stories behind *Hatchet*, as he lived them. Readers interested in wilderness survival and hunting may like this book.

Rattma, Lucia. ***Queen Noor: American-Born Queen of Jordan***

112 p. +921 Noo

A biography of Queen Noor, the American-born woman who reigned alongside Jordan's King Hussein.

Rau, Dana Meachen. ***Andrew Carnegie: Captain of Industry***

112 p. +921 Car

This book discusses the life of the self-made millionaire who made his fortune in the steel industry and is remembered for his generous donations that built libraries, universities, and research facilities.

Roensch, Greg. ***Vince Lombardi***

112 p. +921 Lom

A biography of the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Redskins, known for his belief in hard work, discipline, and pride both on and off the football field.

Sanna, Ellyn. ***Nolan Ryan***

112 p. +921 Rya

Looks at the life and career of Nolan Ryan, who overcame personal and professional challenges to become one of baseball's most powerful pitchers.

Siegel, Beatrice. ***Marian Wright Edelman: The Making of a Crusader***

159 p. +921 Ede

Marian Wright Edelman is a civil rights activist and children's advocate.

Spencer, Lauren. ***Hank Aaron***

112 p. +921 Aar

Profiles the man who replaced Babe Ruth as "America's Home Run King" and also set records for RBIs and total bases run, despite the pressures of being one of the few black major league players in the 1950s.

St. George, Judith. ***Sacagawea***

115 p. +921 Sac

Tells the story of the Shoshoni Indian girl who served as interpreter, peacemaker, and guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Northwest in 1805-1806.

Stille, Darlene R. ***Madam C. J. Walker: Entrepreneur and Millionaire***

112 p. +921 Walker

Madam Walker was America's first African American female millionaire.

Stine, R.L. ***It Came From Ohio! My Life as a Writer***

140 p. +921 Sti

R. L. Stine, author of horror books talks about his childhood, becoming a writer, and his success with the "Fear Street" and "Goosebumps" series.

Thoennes Keller, Kristin. ***Carrie Chapman Catt: A Voice for Women***

112 p. +921 Cat

Carrie Chapman Catt restructured and organized the suffrage movement to help pass the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Her tireless work for women's rights made it possible for women in every state to vote in the 1920 presidential election.

Yates, Elizabeth. ***Amos Fortune: Free Man***

181 p. +921 For

The life of the eighteenth-century African prince who, after being captured by slave traders, was brought to Massachusetts where he was a slave until he was able to buy his freedom at the age of sixty. A Newbery Medal book.