

Rosa Parks: My Story

Parks, Rosa J B Parks

When she stepped on the bus that morning Rosa Parks had no idea the impact she would have on the Civil Rights movement. Parks provides a voice for women involved in one of the most significant movements of the 20th Century.

Dreams from My Father

Obama, Barack B Obama

Before he was president, Obama struggled to find his identity because of his mixed-race and unconventional upbringing. His educational and outreach experiences allowed Obama to find himself and reconnect with his estranged father.

Lost in Place: Growing up Absurd in Suburbia

Salzman, Mark B Salzman

Salzman demonstrates his eccentric personality as he reflects on his conventional childhood. He clearly wasn't a conventional child. Why be normal? Make life more interesting.

Miss American Pie

Sartor, Margaret 305.235 Sartor

Using personal diary entries, Sartor illustrates her formative teenage years while growing up in Alabama. Uncannily self-aware, the author reminds us that youth are shaped by their experiences.

Tweak: Growing Up on Methamphetamines

Sheff, Nic B Sheff

Sheff gruesomely describes his struggle with drugs and alcohol. Although difficult to read at times because of his honesty, this story is well told and full of personal insight.

Holy Roller: Growing Up in the Church of Knock Down Drag Out, of How I Stopped Loving a Blue-eyed Jesus

Wilson, Diane B Wilson

Wilson's world is largely defined by her Gulf Coast upbringing, shrimp boats, whimsical religious zealots, and sharp tongues. Wilson reshapes Southern Gothic with her childhood tales about bonds of a crazy family and her spirituality.

What is a memoir?

As a literary genre, a memoir (from the French: *mémoire* from the Latin *memoria*, meaning "memory"), or a reminiscence, forms a subclass of autobiography – although the terms 'memoir' and 'autobiography' are today almost interchangeable. The author of a memoir may be referred to as a memoirist.



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Memoirs

➤➤➤ Young Adults



Moore Memorial Public Library

Summer Reads

Memoirs

My Lord What a Morning

Anderson, Marian 780.92 Anderson

Anderson was the first African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House. Her memoir reflects boldly on her childhood in working-class Philadelphia and her progression to one of the most internationally renowned contraltos on the 20th Century.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Angelou, Maya B Angelou

Written in 1969, this book reflects upon Angelou's life from age 3, when she and her brother were sent to live with her grandmother in Arkansas, to 17, when she gave birth to her first child. This book focuses largely on Angelou's ability to overcome adversity and prejudice.

The Elfish Gene: Dungeons and Dragons and Growing Up Strange

Barrowcliffe, Mark 823.914 Barrowel

Barrowcliffe reflects on his geeky youth spent role playing in a world comprised of wizard, goblins, dragons, and elves. Pull out your 20-sided dice for his reflection on his awkward adolescence.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Child Soldier

Beah, Ishmael 966.404 Beah

Beah tells the story of what it is like to be one of 300,000 drug-induced child soldiers wielding an AK-47 in Africa. As a soldier, Beah discovered he was capable of doing heinous things. His book recalls his years spent soldiering and his struggle to forgive himself and recapture his humanity.

Gifted Hands

Carson, Ben B Carson

Carson is one of the leading neurosurgeons in medicine. His book explores his struggles to achieve personal and professional success.

Million Little Pieces

Frey, James 362.29092 Frey

Frey recalls his struggle to overcome drug and

alcohol addiction, multiple stints in rehabilitation, and eventual rejection of 12-step programs.

Hole in My Life

Gantos, Jack 813.54 Gantos

Known for is YA novels, Gantos transition from fiction to real life as he shares his emotional ride from high school drop out to drug smuggler to convict.

Rocket Boys: A Memoir

Hickman Jr., Homer H. 629.1092 Hickman

Inspirational tale of Hickman's journey from growing up in a dying, blue-collar mining town to a NASA engineer.

We Are on Our Own: a Memoir

Katin, Miriam YP Fic Katin

In this graphic novel, Katin retells the story of how she and her mother survived in Hungary during WWII. While Katin's father fought in the war, his Jewish wife and child abandoned everything they owned and took on the identity of servants. The sacrifices they made had long term affects on Katin's family, which are also displayed in her Impressionistic illustrations.

Girl, Interrupted

Kaysen, Susan 616.89 Kaysen

25 years late, Kaysen shares her two year stint in a Boston psychiatric hospital in a dark and sometimes hilarious manner. This book would later become a movie starring Winona Ryder and Angelia Jolie.

Into the Wild

Krakauer, Jon B McCandle

Krakauer retraces the last two years of Christopher McCandless' life in this book, which would eventually be made into a film starring Sean Penn and Emile Hersch. The author captures McCandless' voice by using excerpts journal and through conversations with people he encountered on his journey to Alaska.

Falling Leaves: A True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter

Mah, Adeline Yen 305.488951 Mah

After her mother died giving birth to her, Mah was

treated like a bad omen by her father and family members. Mah recounts her difficult childhood with an emotionally-abusive father and cruel step-mother while growing up in mainland China after the 1949 revolution.

Triangular Road

Marshall, Paule B Marshall

Known for her work, *The Fisher King*, Marshall opens up to her audience and explores the triangulation between Barbados and Grenada; the Bajan community of Brooklyn; and Africa, all which shaped and influenced her life.

Figs and Fate: Stories About Growing Up in the Arab World Today

Marston, Elsa YP Fic Marston

A gripping collection of short stories about Arab teenagers living in modern-day Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Iraq.

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother

McBride, James B McBride

Through his childhood memories, McBride creates a vivid picture of a courageous woman, his mother, who faced life-long adversity for the choices she made.

Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America

McCall, Nathan 305.3896 McCall

McCall's open and honest description of his life as a boy in a black neighborhood in Portsmouth, VA, his participation in violent criminal acts, and his eventual imprisonment for armed robbery seem somehow to be an expression of the rage felt by so many young people in urban America.

Angela's Ashes: A Memoir

McCourt, Frank B McCourt

This Pulitzer Prize winning autobiography retells McCourt's life growing up in Ireland and Brooklyn, NY. His family's struggles would later find its way on the big screen and receive multiple award nominations.