

Worlds of Words 2026

Grade 11-12 Recommended Global Information Books

Science, Mathematics and Technical Subjects

Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<i>Building Big</i> , David Macaulay	1260L 192 pp	Info 2000	Global	Focuses on the planning, design problems, and solutions of bridges, tunnels, skyscrapers, and dams.
<i>The Elephant Scientist</i> , Caitlin O'Connell	1260L 70 pp	Info 2016	Namibia	Chronicles a scientist's experiences studying African elephants in their natural habitat.
<i>Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95</i> , Phillip Hoose	1150L (Y) 148 pp	Info 2012	Global	Chronicles a year in the life of a rufa redknot B95 migrating from Tierra del Fuego to the Canadian Arctic.
<i>Plasticus Maritimus: An Invasive Species</i> , Ana Pego and Bernardo Carvalho	169 pp 1040 L	Info 2020	Global Portuguese Tr.	Presents evidence on the presence of plastics in oceans, lakes and streams and explains the problems they create along with providing suggestions for how to reduce the amount of plastics in oceans.
<i>What the World Eats</i> , Peter Menzel	1150L 160 pp	Info 2008	Global	Photos from 25 families in 21 countries show what they eat in day, costs, and culture info.

History and Social Studies

Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<i>All Rise: Resistance and Rebellion in South Africa</i> , Richard Conyngham	220 pp	HF GN 2022	South Africa 1910-1948	An account of how ordinary citizens resisted government oppression. Each chapter highlights a different act of pre-apartheid resistance, telling hard stories. Includes the artwork of 7 South African artists.
<i>The Ballerina of Auschwitz, YA Edition</i> , Edith Eva Eger	208 pp	Memoir 2025	Hungarian WWII	A teen's experiences in Auschwitz and rebuilding after the war. Edith was a 16-year-old gymnast who returned to dancing after the war and became a psychologist treating post traumatic stress.

<i>Beyond Courage</i> , Doreen Rappaport	1030 L 228 pp	Info 2014	Europe WWII	Provides detailed accounts of defiance by Jews in Nazi-occupied countries in World War II.
<i>Breadcrumbs: Coming of Age in Post-Soviet Poland</i> , Katarzyna Babis	237 pp	Memoir 2025 GN	Poland 1990s	Kasia Babis experiences her growth from a rebellious teen to a politically minded activist as she struggles her country's Catholicism and move to conservatism.
<i>Call Me American: True Story of a Somali Immigrant</i> , Abdi Nor Aftin	900L 255 pp	Memoir 2021	Somalia 1985 US	Memoir of a boy born into privilege in Somalia, whose family loses everything in the civil war, finally making their way to the U.S. He struggles to get a visa, as well to deal with complex racial realities.
<i>The Cat I Never Named</i> , Amra Sabic-El-Rayess	370 pp	Memoir 2020	Bosnia 1992	Memoir of a Muslim teen struggling to survive during the Bosnian genocide as they faced starvation and the threat of brutal ethnic violence.
<i>Corpses, Coffins, and Crypts</i> . Penny Colman	195 pp 1190 L	Info 2000	Global	A look at traditions around death and burial across the centuries and global cultures.
<i>Courage & Defiance</i> , Deborah Hopkinson	1040L 339 pp	Info 2015	Denmark WWII	Danish resistance and the rescue of over 7000 Jews during World War II.
<i>Death in the Jungle</i> , Candace Fleming	356 pp 860 L	History 2025	Guyana, South Am	A chronicle of the mysterious cult led by Jim Jones to Jonestown, Gyana in South America and how he persuaded 900 followers to kill themselves.
<i>Deogratias: A Tale of Rwanda</i> , Jean-Phillipe Stassen	GN 78 pp	Info 2018	Rwanda 1994 Tr	A graphic novel about the Tutsi genocide through the eyes of Deogratias, a Hutu, in love with a Tutsi. Violence and betrayal. Use of fiction to convey fact.
<i>Don't Look Back: A Memoir of War, Survival and My Journey from Sudan to America</i> , Achut Deng and Keely Hutton.	345 pp 910 L	Memoir 2022	Sudan	Achut loses her family after an attack when she is 6 years old, living in refugee camps for 10 years before she is relocated to the U.S. She continues to face many obstacles in trying to move ahead but must also deal her past.
<i>Drawn across Borders: True Stories of Human Migration</i> , George Butler	46 pp	Info 2021	Global	Collection of 12 illustrated refugee stories drawn by artist George Butler as a reporter conveying a wide range of migration experiences through expressive ink sketches and contextual narratives.
<i>The Far Away Brothers</i> , Lauren Markham	890 L 265 pp	Bio 2020	El Salvador	Bio of twin brothers who make their way from El Salvador to Mexico and the U.S., falling into the hands of immigration officials and awaiting their day in court.

<i>Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time</i> , Tanya Stone	1050L 193 pp	Info 2019	Global	Follows the lives of girls coming of age in the developing world and confronting barriers to their education. Also available as a documentary.
<i>The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout</i> , Neal Bascomb	1070 L 275 pp	Info 2020	Germany WWI	Allied POWs staged an escape from Germany's most notorious prison camp. A group of pilots dug a tunnel and made it out of enemy territory. Photographs.
<i>The Greatest Treasure Hunt in History: The Story of the Monument Men</i> , Robert Edsel	1200 L 333 pp	Info 2021	Germany WWII	12 American and British volunteers risked their lives during WWII to preserve churches, libraries, monuments, and art in a race against time to locate treasures stolen by Hitler and the Nazis.
<i>Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival and Heroism in Nazi Europe</i> . Steve Sheinkin	243 pp 850 L	History 2023	Poland 1944	Two Jewish teens who escaped from Auschwitz to bear witness - bringing the first widely distributed eyewitness accounts of what was happening in the camps. Includes testimony, trial transcripts, documentary evidence.
<i>In Search of Safety: Voices of Refugees</i> , Susan Kuklin	246 pp 700 L	Interview 2020	Global	Interviews with five refugees who had to flee war, face violent threats and enslavement, and grow up in refugee camps before resettlement in the U.S. South Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iraq and Burundi.
<i>A Long Way Gone</i> , Ishmael Beah	920L (Z) 229 pp	Memoir 2008	Sierra Leone	Memoir of a child soldier in Sierra Leone who was removed from fighting and relocated.
<i>Maison Rouge: Memories of a Childhood in War</i> , Lilane Leila Juma	123 pp	Memoir 2020	Congo, 1993	Lilane was 16 when her family home was destroyed by rebel soldiers and her family torn apart by civil war and invasion and fleeing through the mountains to Tanzania and eventually to Quebec.
<i>Movements and Moments</i> , Drawn and Quarterly	264 pp	GN/Bios 2022	Global Indigenous	An anthology that chronicles rebellions led by Indigenous women activists from around the world in fights for social, educational and ecological rights.
<i>The Nazi Hunters</i> , Neal Bascomb	1000 L 245 pp	Info 2018	Europe	History of the spies, lawyers, and Holocaust survivors who pursued Adolf Eichmann for fifteen years to bring him to justice.
<i>No God but God: The Evolution of Islam</i> , Reza Aslan	RL 11.5 166 pp	Info 2011	Middle East	A detailed overview of Islam, discussing the religion's origins, beliefs, traditions, and place in world cultures.
<i>Old as Stone, Hard as Rock: Of Humans and War</i> . Alessandro Sanna. Ammiel Alcalay, Tr	188 pp	Visual essay, VN 2025	Italy Tr.	A visual narrative without words about human destruction throughout the ages from the perspective of a stone. A sweeping history of war and humanity that traces human creativity and destruction, rendering beauty and violence.

<i>Persepolis</i> , Marjane Satrapi	380 L GN 153 pp	Memoir 2004	Iran	Graphic novel account of author's life in Tehran, Iran when the country came under control of the Islamic Regime.
<i>Persepolis 2</i> , Marjane Satrapi	500 L GN 187 pp	Memoir 2005	Iran	Graphic novel of author's life growing up during the Islamic Revolution in Iran.
<i>Stolen Voices: Young People's War Diaries</i> , Zlata Filipovic	RL 11.0 293 pp	Journals 2006	Global	Fourteen journals written by adolescents about the impact of being caught in the midst of war. From WWI to Iraq.
<i>Symphony for the City of the Dead</i> , M.T. Anderson	990L 456 pp	Info 2017	Russia WWII	Siege of Leningrad by the Nazis and the role played by composer Dmitri Shostakovich in rallying and commemorating citizens.
<i>A Thousand Sisters: The Heroic Airwomen of the Soviet Union in World War II</i> , Elizabeth Wein	388 pp	Info 2020	Soviet Union WWII	True story of the only women to fly in combat in World War II, and the intense pressures and obstacles they faced in the sky and on the ground.
<i>Tiodora's Letters</i> , Marcela D'Saleta	204 pp	History GN 2026	Brazil 1800s	Tiodora, an enslaved African woman in Brazil, wrote letters to her son and husband and to enslavers to locate her family and plea for freedom. These letters are the basis for this historical work documenting Brazil's dark history of slavery.
<i>Walk toward the Rising Sun</i> , Ger Duany	1010 L 306 pp	Memoir 2020	Sudan	Memoir of Duany's experiences in fleeing with family in South Sudan during the Sudanese Civil War, becoming a child soldier and eventually moving across countries until he arrived in the U.S. where he became an actor and peace activist.

Literature and the Arts

Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<i>The Bees: The Women Who Rocked Lithuania</i> . Akbville Magicduste. E. Lastovskyte, Tr.	168 pp	Bio GN 2025	Lithuania Tr 1960-70s	The Bees were an ensemble of 6 women who toured the Soviet Union as Lithuania's first all women rock band. Their experiences ranged from thrilling performances to chilling encounters with the KGB.
<i>Brave Jane Austin</i> , Lisa Pliscou	32 pp	Bio 2018	England 1800s	Picturebook biography of Austin provides an overview of her writing and personality.
<i>The Bronte Sisters</i> , Catharine Reef	1080 (Z) 231 pp	Bio 2015	England	Explores the turbulent lives of the Bronte sisters and the times in which they lived.

<i>Charlotte Bronte before Jane Eyre</i> , Glynnis Fawkes	92 pp	Bio/GN 2019	England 1800s	A graphic novel of the life of Charlotte Bronte up until the publication of <i>Jane Eyre</i> and how she battled the odds to have her voice heard.
<i>From Here: A Memoir</i> , Luma Mufleh	303 pp 870 L	Memoir 2024	Jordan 1980s	An activist's experiences of being gay in a culture she loves but is not safe due to her sexuality. Even after applying for asylum in the U.S., she faces many dangers. Questions of choosing between living your truth or your family's.
<i>Jane Austen—Her Heart Did Whisper</i> , Manuela Santoni	90 pp	Bio/GN 2018	England Italian tr	Graphic novel on the life of Jane Austen, with a focus on her childhood and romance with Thomas Lefroy.
<i>The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam</i> , Ann Marie Fleming	RL 11.2 170 pp	Bio/GN 2007	China	Graphic novel about the life of a world-renowned magician, acrobat, and vaudeville performer.
<i>Miguel's Brave Knight</i> , Margarita Engle, Rafael Lopez	920 L (U) 32 pp	Bio 2017	Sprain 1500s	Picturebook fictionalized biography of the childhood of Miguel de Cervantes, written in first-person, free
<i>#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women</i> , Lisa Charleyboy	910 L 109 pp	Interview 2017	North America	A collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that express the experience of being an Indigenous woman. Stories of abuse and stereotyping are countered by the voices of women making themselves heard and acting.
<i>Ordinary, Extraordinary Jane Austin</i> , Deborah Hopkinson	32 pp	Bio 2018	England 1800s	Picturebook biography of Austin with a focus on her childhood spent observing and reading.

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

Under Levels, the letters, e.g. (O), in parentheses are Fountas and Pinnell levels

Check the recommended reading lists for Grades 9-10, many of these books will be appropriate for 11-12

8/21/2026