

Worlds of Words 2026

Grade 6-8 Recommended Global Information Books

Science, Mathematics and Technical Subjects

	Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
Construction and Architecture	<i>Mosque</i> , David Macauley	1340 L 96 pp	Info 2008	Turkey, 1500s	Methods and materials to construct 16 th century mosque in Turkey.
	<i>The Story of Buildings</i> , Patrick Dillon and Stephen Biesty	1060 L 95 pp	Info 2014	Global	Details on the construction of buildings across time and place from the Egyptian pyramids to the Sydney Opera House, providing drawings and stories of the constructions.
	<i>Why Humans Build Up</i> , Gregor Craigie & Kathleen Fu	86 pp RL 7.4	Info 2022	Global	Explores why and how people have constructed taller buildings over the course of history and what that means for the planet.
Scientific inquiry and field study	<i>Amazon Adventures</i> , Sy Montgomery	RL 7.7 65 PP	Info 2020	Brazil	Expedition into the rainforest to document the role of a tiny fish in preserving the Amazon. Photo-documentary.
	<i>The Big One: The Cascadia Earthquakes and the Science of Saving Lives</i> , Elizabeth Rusch	75 pp RL 6.8	Info 2020	Canada	Scientists explore earth movements and plate tectonics in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, an area between British Columbia and N. California, where a major earthquake is expected in 50 years.
	<i>Chasing Cheetahs</i> , Sy Montgomery	1000 L 74 pp	Info 2017	Nambia	A scientific team works to save cheetahs from extinction. Photo-documentary
	<i>Eclipse Chaser: Science in the Moon's Shadow</i> , Ilima Loomis & Amanda Cowan	79 pp RL 6.8 960 L	Info 2019	Global	The August 2017 solar eclipse was the opportunity of a lifetime for astronomer Shadia Habbal as a team of

					journalists, scientists, mathematicians, and engineers traveled the world to observe the sun's corona.
	<i>The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild</i> , Lawrence Anthony	804 L RL 6.5 248 pp 2017	Memoir 2017	South Africa	The author provides an account of his experiences after he agreed to take a herd of rogue elephants into his game reserve in South Africa so they would not be exterminated.
	<i>Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein</i> , Marfe Ferguson Delano	RL 7.6 63 pp	Bio 2005	Germany US	Life of physicist whose theories revolutionized views of the space-time continuum, as well as his political, social, and cultural interests. Photos.
	<i>Hidden Power: Lise Meitner's Call to Science</i> , Jeannine Atkins	277 pp	NV, Bio 2023	Austria	Fictionalized bio in verse about an Austrian Jew and physics professor escaped to Sweden and who work led to the discovery of nuclear fission.
	<i>The Hyena Scientist</i> , Sy Montgomery	71 pp RL 7.5	Info 2018	Kenya	A scientist challenges hyena myths, showing their high intelligence and complex behaviors.
	<i>Kakapo Rescue</i> , Sy Montgomery	950 (W) 74 pp	Info 2016	New Zealand	The work of naturalists to save a parrot from extinction on a remote island.
	<i>Overview: A New Way of Seeing Earth</i> , Benjamin Grant	1210 L RL 6.5 149 pp	Info 2019	Global	Satellite photographs capture the Earth's natural beauty and the destructive ways humans impact the environment.
	<i>The Sixth Extinction</i> , Elizabeth Kolbert (Young Readers)	224 pp	Info 2024	Global	Describes the 5 mass extinctions on earth and their causes and the 6 th mass extinction, occurring now due to humans.
	<i>The Tapir Scientist</i> , Sy Montgomery	970 L 80 pp	Info 2013	Brazil	Focus on a scientist in the field who studies and protects tapirs. Photo-documentary.

	<i>Total Garbage: A Messy Dive into Trash, Waste and Our World</i> , Rebecca Donnelly and John Hendrix.	138 pp RL 8.4	Info 2023	Global	Scientific and cultural history of the waste humans produce, explaining why we make so much trash, why we're so bad at handling it, and how we can stop from ruining the planet.
	<i>A Window in the Ocean Twilight Zone</i> , Michelle Cusolito	140 pp 1020 L	Info 2024	Global	Follow a boat full to scientists on a voyage to study the deepest part of the sea—the ocean twilight zone. 24 days of photo-illustrated science at sea.

History and Social Studies

	Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
History	<i>Black Potatoes</i> , Susan Bartoletti	1040 L (Y) 184 pp	Info 2005	Ireland, 1845-50	The great Irish famine was caused by a blight that attacked potatoes, the main food source, causing hunger and disease. Told through the voices of Irish people and primary sources.
	<i>Blizzard of Glass</i> , Sally M. Walker	1100 (W) 148 pp	Info 2011	Canada 1917	When two ships carrying munitions collided in Halifax Harbor, they exploded, leveling two towns.
	<i>Bright Stars of Black British History</i> , J.T. Williams	160 pp	Bio COL 2023	UK	Life stories of 14 Black British people and their contributions to literature, journalism, politics, medicine, sports and music
	<i>Fantastic Failures</i> , Luke Reynolds	1080 L 288 pp.	Bio /COL 2018	Global	Stories of people who changed the world by first failing, on their way to success.
	<i>The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival</i> , Estelle Nadel	244 pp	Memoir GN 2024	Poland 1939	When the Nazis invade her town, Enia is separated from her family and forced into hiding, facing violence and death, before finally coming to the US, where she was adopted.
	<i>Historium</i> , Jo Nelson	RL 8.9 95 pp	Info 2015	Global	Explores 160 historical artifacts from around the world that introduce ancient civilizations.

	<i>How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous</i> , Georgia Bragg	950L (Y) 184 pp	Info 2012	Global	An overview of the gruesome deaths of nineteen famous historical figures.
	<i>Lives of Extraordinary Women</i> , Kathleen Krull	95 pp 1150 L	Bio/COL 2013	Global	Profiles of 20 historically significant women, highlighting their accomplishments and unique quirks. Range from famous to less well-known women.
	<i>Plagues and Pandemics</i> , Kate Messner & Falynn Koch	231 pp 1110 L	Info 2021	Global	Uncovers the hidden truths about history's pandemics from Black Death to COVID-19. Uses sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels. History Smashers series.
	<i>The Secret Life of Spies</i> , Michael Noble and Alexander Mostov	48 pp RL 7.3	Bio COL 2020	Global	Short biographies of 20 real-lie spies who made it their mission to collect secret information from enemies. Includes personal accounts and testimonies.
	<i>Shackleton's Journey</i> , William Grill	1140 L 68 pp	Info 2014	Antarctica 1914	Illustrated account of the Shackleton expedition when their frozen ship led to a perilous journey on foot across ice.
	<i>The Silk Roads</i> , Peter Frankopan	RL 8.8 126 pp	Info 2017	Global	World history by way of silk roads to trace the flow of ideas, culture, and commerce through human interaction. Illustrations/maps
	<i>They Lost Their Heads!</i> Carolyn Beccia	RL 6.0 182 pp	Info 2019	Global	The true but strange stories about what happened to the body parts of famous people, such as Einstein's brain, Galileo's fingers, and Louis XIV's heart.
	<i>Threads of Peace: How Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Changed the World</i> , Uma Krishnaswami	325 pp RL 6.6 (Y)	Bio 2021	India U.S.	A look at the connections between Gandhi and King who both changed the world in their quest for peace and shared a goal of social revolution. Celebrates their lives, the threads that connected them, and their continued influence.

	<i>Three Summers</i> , Amra Sabic-El-Reyess	346 pp	Memoir 2024	Bosnia 1980s	Memoir about two cousins who grow close as ethnic tensions escalate in 3 summers before the Bosnian War. Coming of age story that is heartbreaking yet warm.
	<i>Titanic: Voices from the Disaster</i> , Deborah Hopkinson	1040 L (V) 289 pp	Info 2014	Global	The sinking of the Titanic with backmatter on artifacts and facts. Primary focus is the stories in first-person voices of survivors.
	<i>Torpedoed</i> , Deborah Heiligman	840 L 292 pp	Info 2019	England WWII	The true story of the WWII sinking of a ship of British children being evacuated to Canada.
	<i>Voices from the Second World War</i> , Candlewick	980 L 300 pp	Info 2019	Europe WWII	A collection of personal narratives about WWII as told by survivors to children. Vintage photos
	<i>Yellow Singing Sail: A Memoir of an Only Child in China</i> , Yinfan Huang	184 pp	Memoir GN 2025	China 1990	Huang documents her childhood move from rural Xintian to a bustling big city Guangzhou where her life dramatically changes and she struggles with loneliness in a new school.
	<i>Walls: The Long History of Human Barriers and Why We Build Them</i> , Gregor Craigie	79 pp	History 2024	Global	People have built walls to keep others out for thousands of years, but they are also built to help people. The reasons why people have put up walls over the course of history.
	<i>We Must Not Forget: Holocaust Stories of Survival and Resistance</i> , Deborah Hopkinson	346 pp 1010 L	Bio 2021	Europe WWII	Focusing on testimonies from the Netherlands, France, Germany, and Poland, the voices of Holocaust survivors tell their stories of persecution, survival and resistance.
	<i>A World without Summer</i> , Nicholas Day & Yas Imamura	294 pp	History 2025	Indonesia 1815	A massive eruption plunged the world into darkness, altered the global climate and inspired Mary Shelley's work.

Social Studies and Global Cultures	<i>After Life: Ways We Think about Death</i> , M. Wilcox	1120 L 88 pp	Info 2018	Global	History, beliefs, and customs surrounding death in cultures around the world. Photos, illustrations, side bars.
	<i>Drawn across Borders: True Stories of Human Migration</i> , George Butler	46 pp	Info 2021	Global	12 illustrated refugee stories by artist George Butler as a reporter conveying a range of migration experiences through expressive ink sketches and contextual narratives.
	<i>Every Falling Star</i> , Sungju Lee	88L 314 pp	Memoir 2017	North Korea	The memoir of a boy, the son of the elite, who was forced to live on the streets when his parents disappear.
	<i>Game Changers: Stories of Hijabi Athletes</i> , Charlene Smith & Natalya Tariq	70 pp	Bio 2025	Global	An anthology of 13 inspiring hijabi athletes from around the world.
	<i>How Dare the Sun Rise</i> , Sandra Uwiringyimana	RL 7.8 288 pp	Memoir 2018	Congo	Autobiography of how Sandra was forced to flee the Congo, her experiences in a Burundi camp and as a refugee in a U.S.
	<i>Kids of Kabul</i> , Deborah Ellis	800L (W) 143 pp	Interview 2018	Afghanistan	Interviews with 27 children and teens in Afghanistan and their experiences, hopes, and fears in a war-torn country.
	<i>Kubla Khan: The Emperor of Everything</i> , Kathleen Krull	1080L 42 pp	Bio 2010	China	Portrait of the progressive and tolerant Mongol ruler, Kubla Khan, who ruled the greatest civilization of the time.
	<i>Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune</i> , Pamela Turner	950L 236 pp	Bio 2018	Japan	Life and career of samurai Minamoto Yoshitsune, including exile as a child, running away as a teenager, and becoming a military genius.
	<i>Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story</i> , Caren Stelson	850 L 144 pp	Bio 2016	Japan	Spans 50 years in the life of Sachiko, 6 years old at the time of the bomb, chronicling the effects of the bomb.
	<i>Snow Falling in Spring</i> , Moying Li-Marcus	1020 L (Z) 176 pp	Memoir 2010	China	Memoir on events of her life from age twelve to adulthood when the Cultural Revolution destroyed her family's customs and everyday life.

	<i>Waiting Place: When Home is Lost and A New One Not Yet Found</i> , Dina Nayeri	64 pp	Info 2022	Greece	The stories of 10 brave children who live in the Katsikas refugee camp in Greece. Photographic documentary.
Historical Inquiry	<i>At Home in Her Tomb</i> , Christine Liu-Perkins	80 pp 1110 L	Info 2014	China 220 AD	Archaeological dig of the Mawangdui tombs, uncovering a mummy and artifacts related to life during Han dynasty.
	<i>Bodies from the Ash</i> , James Deem	1120 50 pp	Info 2017	Pompeii 79 AD	Describes volcanic explosion that completely buried the city and the archaeological dig that uncovered the remains. Photo-essay. <i>Bodies from the Ice</i> (Italy) and <i>Bodies from the Bog</i> (Denmark).
	<i>Loch Ness Uncovered</i> , Rebecca Siegel	192 pp 1050 L	Info 2024	Scotland	Extensively researched, myth-busting account of the world's most famous monster hoax and a cautionary tale on the dangers of misinformation. Case study of "fake news."
	<i>More Deadly Than War: The Hidden History of the Spanish Flu and WWI</i> , Kenneth Davis	1170 L RL 8.9 291 pp	Info 2018	Europe/U.S. 1918	Presents the argument that the Spanish flu pandemic had more of an effect on the outcome of WWI than military strategy. Also documents medical misunderstandings of the flu and its spread.
	<i>The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb</i> , Candace Fleming	285 pp RL 6.8	Info 2021	Egypt 1922	Examines the excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter and the allure of thieves, treasure, and ancient curses. Includes the negative impact of colonialism.
	<i>The True Story of Vanilla</i> , Ann Richards & Arden Taylor	99 pp	Bio 2025	Reunion Island 1841	An enslaved boy, Edmond Abius, discovered how to hand pollinate vanilla using a bamboo twig, but did not receive payment or recognition due to his enslaved status.
Activists and Action	<i>All Thirteen: The Incredible Case Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team</i> , Christina Soontornvat	280 pp 1020 L	Info 2020	Thailand	The cave rescue of 12 young soccer players and their coach in Thailand, trapped by rising waters. Blends suspense, science, and cultural insight in firsthand accounts, interviews, and photographs.

	<i>The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler</i> , John Hendrix	980 L RL 6.7 175 pp	Bio 2018	Germany WWII	Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who spoke out against Hitler and decided to try and stop Hitler in an attempt to free the German people from oppression.
	<i>I am Malala</i> , Malala Yousafzai	830L (Z) 240 pp	Memoir 2015	Pakistan	Autobiography describing Malala's fight for education for girls and the Taliban retaliation.
	<i>HerStory: 50 Women and Girls Who Shook the World</i> , Katherine Halligan	1080 L RL 6.2 112 pp.	Bio COL 2018	Global	Stories of 50 woman around the world and across time and how each managed to change the world. Short vignettes with photos and folk-style illustrations and quotes. Scrapbook style.
	<i>Living the Confidence Code</i> , Kathy Kay	389 pp RL 7.3	Info/BIO 2020	Global	30 stories of girls from around the world who are pursuing their passions and figuring out how to build confidence.
	<i>Muzoon: A Syrian Refugee Speaks Out</i> , Muzoon Almellehan	270 pp	Memoir 2023	Syria Global	The story of her life in Syria, the family's decision to leave, and the upheaval of life in a refugee camp. One constant was her belief that education is the key to a better future.
	<i>Mimi's Village</i> , Kate Smith Milway	880L 32 pp	Info 2012	Kenya	Combines fiction/nonfiction to describe teen's efforts to bring health care to her village. Info on how to get involved.
	<i>Never Silent: A Hiroshima Survivor's Story</i> , Satsuko Thurlow & Michelle Theodore	64 pp	Memoir 2025	Japan	A survivor of the atomic bomb shares her memories of the horrific event and her lifelong commitment to activism to ban nuclear arms.
	<i>Our Rights: How Kids are Changing the World</i> , J. Wilson	RL 6.8 33 pp	Info 2013	Global	The ways in which children around the world have stood up for their rights and the rights of others.
	<i>Peace and Me</i> , Ali Winter	1090 L 32 pp	Bio/ COL 2018	Global	The lives and work of Nobel Peace Prize recipients. Intros to their lives and struggles. Fabric collages.

	<i>Pele, the King of Soccer</i> Eddy Simon	139 pp	Bio/GN 2017	Brazil Tr	A graphic novel on the life of soccer star Pele from his childhood to his soccer fame and his UNICEF work.
	<i>Planet Ocean: Why We All Need a Healthy Ocean</i> , Patricia Newman	64 pp 1030 L	Info 2021	Global	A dive team explores three undersea worlds in Asia, North America, and the Arctic. Uses photos, maps, charts, and short essays about people who work to care for the ocean. Provides access to videos and includes Indigenous voices.
	<i>Queen of Freedom: Defending Jamaica</i> , Catherine Johnson	122 pp	Bio 2020	Jamaica 1720	Story of how one woman, Queen Nanny, masterminded slave resistance to British rule in the First Maroon War.
	<i>Rise Up! The Art of Protest</i> , Jo Rippon	1130 L RL 6.8 60 pp	Info 2020	Global	Photographs of protest posters over the last 100 years around a range of human rights in different languages and places around the world.
	<i>Stormy Seas</i> , Mary B. Leatherdale	890 L 56 pp	Bio/COL 2017	Global	Profiles of 5 children in different time periods forced to flee as refugees on the open seas.
	<i>Together We March: 25 Protest Movements that Marched into History</i> , Leah Henderson & Tyler Feder	RL 6.4 1260 L 32 pp	Info 2021	Global	Documents 25 groundbreaking protest movements, using marches as a tool for social change, such as equal access to voting, public spaces, and jobs, ranging from a 1903 march for youth labor laws to the Youth Climate Strike in 2019.
	<i>Trapped</i> , Marc Aronson	1070 L 124 pp	Info 2019	Chile	People from around world offered their expertise in the rescue of 33 miners 2000 feet below the desert in Chile.
	<i>Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank</i> , Paula Yoo and Jamel Akib	1010 L 40 pp	Bio 2018	Bangladesh	A biography of a Nobel Peace Prize winner who transformed global anti-poverty efforts by developing idea of micro-loans.

	<i>We Will Not Be Silent</i> , Russell Freedman	830 L 104 pp	Info 2016	Germany	A photo-history of the White Rose, a student-led resistance movement in Nazi Germany. Focus on Hans and Sophie Scholl.
	<i>*When Stars are Scattered</i> , Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed	256 pp	Memoir GN 2020	Kenya Somalia	Somalian Omar and his nonverbal brother live in a refugee camp in a Kenya. Omar gets an opportunity to attend school but has no one to watch after his brother.
	<i>*Witness Blanket: Truth, Art, and Reconciliation</i> , Carey Newman	91 pp RL 7.3	Info 2022	Canada Indigenous	Artist Carey Newman create the Witness Blanket as a living work of art, a collection of hundreds of objects from residential school survivors across Canada.

Literature and the Arts

	Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
The Arts	<i>Alicia Alonso</i> , Carmen Bernier-Grand	RL 6.8 64 pp	Bio/NV 2019	Cuba	A biography in verse telling the life story of a famous Cuban prima ballerina who overcame blindness and led the Ballet Nacional de Cuba.
	<i>The Girl Who Drew Butterflies</i> , Joyce Sidman	1110 L RL 7.7 120 pp	Bio 2018	Germany 1647-1716	Bio of Maria Merian and how her art changed science as one of the first naturalists to observe live insects directly. Richly illustrated with original paintings by Maria.
	<i>Leonardo da Vinci</i> , Kathleen Krull	1010 (Z) 124 pp	Bio 2008	Italy	Biography of da Vinci with a focus on his scientific notebooks and inventions. Giants of Science series.
	<i>Lives of the Artists</i> , Kathleen Krull	RL 7.8 (V) 154 pp	Bio/COL 2014	Global	The humor and tragedy in the lives of twenty artists in short biographical sketches.

	<i>Lives of the Musicians</i> , Kathleen Krull	1010 L 93 pp	Bio/COL 2013	Global	Historical life stories of musicians, both their musical abilities and their humorous characteristics.
Literature	<i>The Bard and the Book: William Shakespeare</i> , Ann Bausum and Marta Seville	103 pp	Info 2024	UK	Unlikely but true story of how a group of people preserved the plays after the Bard had died, at a time when no one wrote down the exact words of stage plays.
	<i>Book of Questions/Libro de las preguntas</i> , Pablo Neruda & Paloma Valdivia	32 pp	Poem 2022	Chile	70 questions from Neruda's poem of 320 questions are gorgeously illustrated and woven together by themes that invite readers to reflect on the mysteries of nature. Bilingual
	<i>Chance: Escape from the Holocaust</i> , Uri Shulevitz	329 pp RL 6.6	Memoir 2020	Poland WWII	Details the 8-year odyssey of how children's author/illustrator Shulevitz and his Jewish family escaped the Nazis by fleeing Warsaw for the Soviet Union. Also on becoming an artist.
	<i>Dinosaurs to Dragons: The Lore and Science of Mythical Creatures</i> , Elizabeth Shreeve & Violeta Encamacion	87 pp	Myth 2026	Global	Explores mythology, paleontology and early civilizations through legendary creatures found in literature and the fossils that might have inspired their origins.
	<i>The Dreamer</i> , Pam Muñoz Ryan and Peter Sis	650 L (V) 372 pp	Bio 2012	Chile	Fictionalized biography of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who was ridiculed by his father, but loved the beauty of word and nature.
	<i>Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People</i> , Monica Brown	970 L 32 pp	2011	Chile	Picturebook biography of the life of Pablo Neruda, describes his childhood, love of his people, and desire to write poetry.
	<i>Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir</i> Pedro Martin	309 pp	Memoir GN 2023	Mexico	As Pedro and his family take a long road trip to Mexico from the US to bring Abuelo home, he struggles with his Mexican identity. Multiple awards.
	<i>Once I Was You</i> , Maria Hinojosa	252 pp RL 7.2	Memoir 2023	Mexico/US	Maria is an award-winning journalist whose family had harrowing experiences with immigration and who went on to gather many family immigration stories.

	<i>The Poet King of Tezcoco</i> , Francisco Serrano	1140 L (X) 35 pp	Bio 2007	Mexico Tr. 1400s	Examines life of Nezahualcoytl, ruler of the Mexican kingdom of Tezcoco and his cultural achievements as a poet and architect.
	<i>The Poet Slave of Cuba</i> , Margarita Engle	RL 6.8 184 pp	Bio/NV 2011	Cuba Early 1800	A biography in verse of Juan Francisco Manzano, who used poetry to write about beauty and courage in a brutal world.
	<i>Severn Speaks Out</i> , Severn Cullis-Suzuki	50 pp	Speech 2021	Canada Indigenous	A speech given by a 12-year-old Indigenous girl about her fears for the planet and her plea for adults to take action.
	<i>You Were Made for This World: Celebrated Indigenous Voices Speak to Young People</i>	119 pp	Letters 2026	Canada Indigenous	Indigenous writers, artists, activists, athletes, and scholars write letters and create art to celebrate the potential of young people and share joy, stories and teachings.
	<i>What a Wonderful Word</i> , Nicola Edwards	64 pp	Info 2018	Global	Collection of untranslatable words from all over the world, celebrates language and culture.
	<i>What a Wonderful Phrase</i>	72 pp	2021		Collection on phrases/idioms that defy translation.
	<i>Will's Words: How William Shakespeare Changed the Way You Talk</i> , Jane Sutcliffe	750L 32 pp	Info 2018	UK	Looks at how William Shakespeare's plays were originally written and performed, and the effect of his writing on society.
	<i>With a Star in My Hand: Ruben Dario, Poetry Hero</i> , Margarita Engle	144 pp	Bio/NV 2021	Nicaragua 1867-1916	Novel in verse of the life story of Dario, a poet who founded the movement of Modernismo. Tells about his sad and lonely childhood and how he poured himself into writing poetry.

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

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

8/21/2026