

Worlds of Words 2026

Grade 9-10 Recommended Global Information Books

Science, Mathematics and Technical Subjects

Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<i>Charles and Emma</i> , Deborah Heiligman	1020L 268 pp	Bio 2011	England 1800s	Biography of naturalist Charles Darwin, including the effect of his work on his personal life and religious beliefs.
<i>The Octopus Scientists</i> , Sy Montgomery	1020L 71 pp	Info 2021	French Polynesia	Explores the characteristics of the octopus, the traits that scientists study, and how their behavior can reveal the health of the oceans.
<i>Patient Zero: Solving the Mysteries of Deadly Epidemics</i> , Marilee Peters	196 pp 1080 L	Info 2021	Global	Examines the history of epidemics, focusing on the great plague epidemic, yellow fever in Cuba, and ebola in Zaire and on the scientists who risked their lives to find the source. Includes a chapter on COVID-19.
<i>Project Seahorse</i> , Pamela S. Turner	1010L (V) 56 pp	Info 2010	Philippines	An account of how conservationists and community members worked together to restore a damaged coral reef.
<i>Tracking Trash</i> , Loree Griffin Burns	1200 (X) 56 pp	Info 2010	Global	Describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels by way of ocean currents.

History and Social Studies

Global Books	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<i>Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i> , Steve Sheinkin	920L (Z) 266 pp	Info 2018	Global	Examines the history of the atomic bomb, the race to build a bomb, and the world-wide implications of a weapon of mass destruction. Also in a GN format (2023).
<i>Born a Girl: It Takes Courage</i> , Alice Dussulour	156 pp	Bio 2024	Global French Tr	Five girls in 5 countries face violence and injustice because they are female but take action with others to work to change their future.

<i>Brazen: Rebel Ladies who Rocked the World</i> , Penelope Bagieu	GN 291 pp	Bio/COL 2018	Global French Tr	Graphic novel format of mini biographies of 29 women in history whose lives were full of indomitable spirit and who overcame fearsome odds to achieve their goals.
<i>Carry On: Poetry by Young Immigrants</i> , Roge	32 pp	Poetry 2021	Canada Global French Tr	Poetry collection that pairs expressive portraits with poems by immigrant newcomers to Canada. Reflections on leaving behind loved ones and adapting to a new culture.
<i>Enrique's Journey</i> , Sonia Nazario	770L 273 pp	Info 2007	Honduras	Enrique is a teen journeying from Honduras to the United States in search of his mother. Issues of family and undocumented immigration.
<i>Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown</i> , Steve Sheinkin	342 pp 890 L	Info 2021	Soviet Union & US	After WWII, the US and the Soviet Union compete to build more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race. The Cold War game leads to the Cuban Missile Crisis and the threat of a final world war.
<i>The Family Romanov</i> , Candace Fleming	950L 292 pp	Info 2014	Russia	A portrait of Russia's last royal family and account of its undoing by ignoring the extreme hardships of peasant life. Contrasts the two perspectives through descriptions of the conditions and accounts in historical records.
<i>Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam</i> , Thien Pham	234 pp	Memoir 2023	Vietnam/US	This graphic memoir chronicles the author's life from childhood in Vietnam to a refugee camp in Thailand and to his search for belonging in the US through the lens of meaningful foods and meals. Food as a love language.
<i>A Game for Swallows</i> , Zeina Abirached <i>I Remember Beirut</i> , Zeina Abirached	680L 188 pp 460L 96 pp	Memoir GN 2012 2014	Lebanon 1981	Graphic novel memoir during civil war on the kindness of neighbors when her parents are unable to return home. Graphic novel memoir of ordinary life in a war zone with Christians and Muslims fighting.
<i>The Genius of Islam</i> , Bryn Barnard	1210L 37 pp	Info 2011	Middle East	An illustrated guide to cultural and scientific contributions by Muslims during the Middle Ages that are still influential today.
<i>Heroines, Rescuers, Rabbis, Spies: Unsung Women of the Holocaust</i> , Sara S. Swartz	147 pp	Bios 2022	Europe WWII	Overlooked by history, nine stories reveal ordinary women who acted with courage to save lives and preserve stories during the Holocaust at great risk of their own lives and well-being.
<i>Hitler Youth</i> , Susan Campbell Bartoletti	1050L (Z) 176 pp	Info 2019	Germany	A photo-documentary of the youth organizations Hitler used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends.

<i>Hmong: A Graphic History</i> , Vicky Lyfoung. Kao-Ly-Yang Tr	158 pp	GN 2026 History	Laos French Tr	A combined history and family biography traces the mythical and historical origins of the Hmong people from China to S.E. Asia and from Laos to France.
<i>The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler</i> , James Giblin	1100L 246 pp	Bio 2015	Germany	Chronicles the life of Adolf Hitler and the consequences of his quest for German dominance on the entire world.
<i>A Light in the Darkness</i> , Albert Marrin	1010 L 388 pp	Bio 2021	Poland WWII	Janusz Korczak, a pediatrician and Holocaust victim, and his life in the Warsaw Ghetto as well as his work challenging the ideology of childhood.
<i>Muhammad Najem, War Reporter</i> , Muhammad Najem	314 pp GN	Memoir 2022	Syria	A teen boy puts his life on the line to reveal what families are enduring in Syria, interviewing teens like himself and posting on social media.
<i>Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide</i> , Isabel Quintero	95 pp	Bio/GN 2018	Mexico	Graphic novel format about the life of an Indigenous photographer who thought critically about art as a process and the importance of being seen. Includes reproductions of her work.
<i>The Prince of the Skies</i> , Antonio Iturbe	534 pp	Bio 2021	France 1920-1940	The story of author Antoine de Saint-Exupery and his passion for flying, poetry, and beautiful women, including his writing of <i>The Little Prince</i> .
<i>The Salt Thief: Gandhi's Heroic March to Freedom</i> , Neal Bascomb & Mitchil Thaker	231 pp 1120 L	History 2026	India 1930	Chronicles Gandhi's campaign in his fight for India's independence, known as the Salt March. The campaign kickstarted the biggest nonviolent protest movement the world had ever seen.
<i>The Sky Was My Blanket</i> , Uri Shulevitz	140 pp	Bio 2025	Europe WWII	A biography of the author's uncle, who as a young Jewish exile from Poland, traveled across Europe to escape Nazism and fascism, always in danger.
<i>Sugar Changed the World</i> , Marc Aronson	1130L 166 pp	Info 2017	Global	Songs, oral histories, maps, archival illustrations chronicle the history and influence of sugar and the sugar trade.
<i>Trapped in Terror Bay</i> , Sigmund Brouwer	167 pp 1170 L	History 2022	Canada Arctic 1845	Examines the disappearance of the John Franklin Arctic Expedition in which two ships searching for the Northwest Passage disappeared. Evidence from historians, Inuit knowledge keepers, archaeologists, and forensic scientists.
<i>Ukraine: Remember Also Me</i> , George Butler	163 pp	Bio 2024	Ukraine	A collection of vivid memories from the conflict in Ukraine due to the Russian invasion. Introduces the people behind the headlines.
<i>The Unwanted: Stories of Syrian Refugees</i> , Don Brown	103 pp	Info/GN 2021	Syrian	Moments of horror and hope characterize the stories of survivors who make their way out of Syria into a world where they are unwanted.

<i>Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers</i> , Deborah Heiligman	900L 454 pp	Bio 2017	Netherlands	The story of the complex relationship between brothers Theo and Vincent Van Gogh, drawn from their correspondence.
<i>The War to End All Wars: World War I</i> , Russel Freedman	1220L (Z) 176 pp	Info 2013	Global	A narrative history of World War I, featuring photographs and the impact of advanced military weaponry on the outcome of the war.
<i>We Are Displaced</i> , Malala Yousafzai	212 pp	Bio/COL 2021	Global	Survival stories of female refugees in different parts of the world, including Malala's own story.

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 11-12, many of these books will be appropriate for 9-10 as well

8/21/2026