



Reading Suggestions for Adults

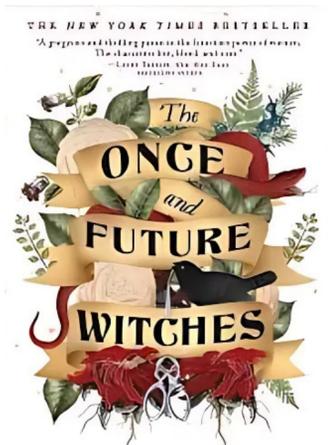


***The Power* by Naomi Alderman**

In "The Power," Naomi Alderman envisions a world where women can emit electrical jolts, altering gender power dynamics. The story follows various characters, including Roxy, Tunde, Margot, and Allie, as women rise to power and begin to oppress men, resulting in global conflict and societal collapse. Presented as a historical account by a man, the novel explores themes of power, corruption, and gender dynamics. It won the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction in 2017 and has been adapted into a TV series.

***Song of a Captive Bird* by Jasmin Darznik**

This novel is a fictionalized account of the life of Forough Farrokhzad, a groundbreaking Iranian poet and filmmaker. Told in the first person, the story traces Forough's journey from a rebellious childhood to her rise as a literary and cultural icon. Despite facing societal constraints, forced marriage, and institutionalization, Forough's passion for poetry and filmmaking never wavers. The novel explores themes of freedom, creativity, and the struggle for women's rights in a patriarchal society. It's a poignant tribute to a woman who defied norms and left an indelible mark on Iranian literature.



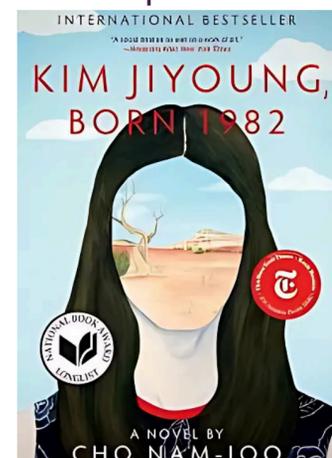
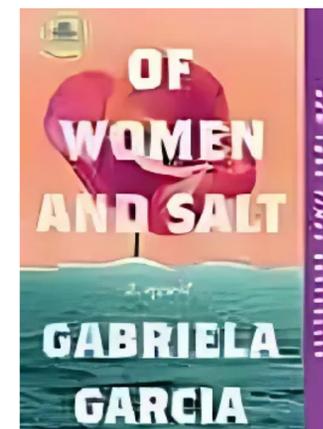
ALIX E. HARROW

***The Once and Future Witches* by Alix E. Harrow**

Set in the late 19th century, this novel follows the Eastwood sisters—James Juniper, Agnes Amaranth, and Beatrice Belladonna—as they reunite in New Salem to reclaim the lost art of witchcraft. Amidst the suffragist movement, the sisters discover that their magic is tied to their collective strength and resilience. The book weaves together themes of female empowerment, resistance, and the enduring power of stories. It's a spellbinding tale of how women can rise together to challenge oppression and rewrite history.

***Of Women and Salt* by Gabriela Garcia**

This debut novel traces the lives of women across generations, from 19th-century Cuba to present-day Miami. It follows Jeanette, a Cuban-American woman grappling with addiction, and her mother, Carmen, who fled Cuba during the revolution. The story delves into themes of migration, family, and the enduring bonds between mothers and daughters. It's a powerful exploration of how history and identity shape women's lives.



***Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* by Cho Nam-Joo**

This novel follows the life of Kim Jiyoung, an ordinary South Korean woman, as she navigates the pervasive sexism and discrimination in her society. From childhood to motherhood, Jiyoung faces systemic barriers that erode her sense of self. The book sparked widespread discussion in South Korea about gender inequality and the pressures faced by women. It's a stark and compelling critique of patriarchal norms.

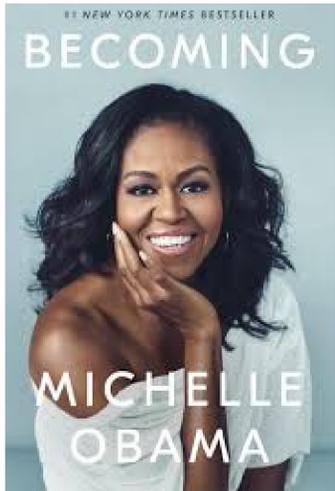
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Honoring
**WOMEN'S
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MONTH**

Nonfiction Reading Suggestions for Adults

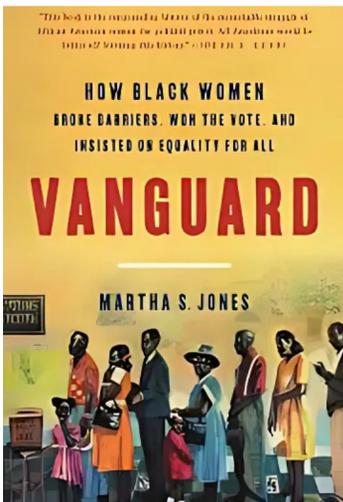
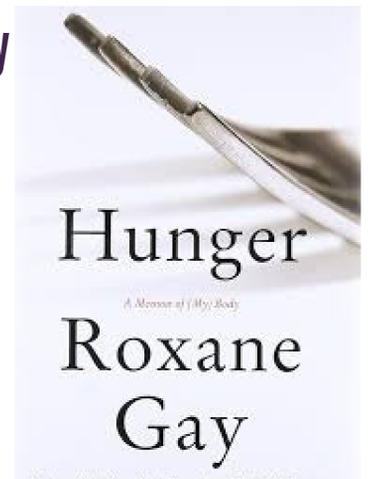


***Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

Michelle Obama's memoir is an intimate and inspiring account of her life, from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as First Lady of the United States. She shares her triumphs and struggles, offering a deeply personal look at her journey of self-discovery, resilience, and empowerment. This book is a testament to the power of education, hard work, and staying true to oneself.

***Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body* by Roxane Gay**

In this raw and powerful memoir, Roxane Gay explores her relationship with food, body image, and trauma. She reflects on how her body became a site of both protection and pain, addressing issues of identity, self-worth, and societal expectations. This book is a profound meditation on what it means to live in a body that doesn't conform to societal norms.

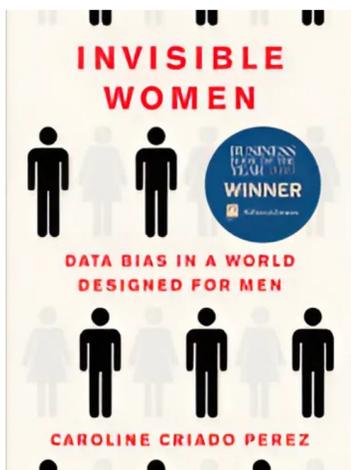
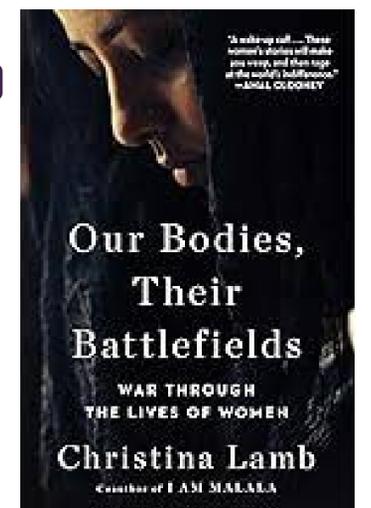


***Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All* by Martha S. Jones**

This groundbreaking book chronicles the untold history of Black women who fought for voting rights and equality in America. Martha S. Jones highlights the contributions of figures like Ida B. Wells, Mary Church Terrell, and Fannie Lou Hamer, showing how their activism laid the foundation for modern social justice movements. It's an essential read for understanding the intersection of race and gender in American history.

***Our Bodies, Their Battlefields: War Through the Lives of Women* by Christina Lamb**

Christina Lamb exposes the devastating impact of war on women, documenting stories of sexual violence, resilience, and survival from conflict zones around the world. This book sheds light on the often-overlooked experiences of women in war, emphasizing the need for justice and accountability. It's a harrowing but necessary exploration of gender-based violence in wartime.



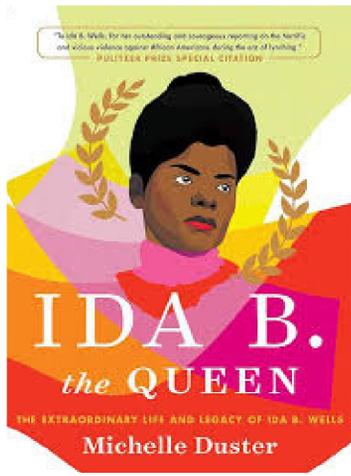
***Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado Perez**

Caroline Criado Perez reveals how gender bias in data collection and design perpetuates inequality, from healthcare to urban planning. Through extensive research, she demonstrates how the exclusion of women's experiences leads to systemic discrimination. This book is a call to action for a more inclusive and equitable world.

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Nonfiction Reading Suggestions for Adults cont.

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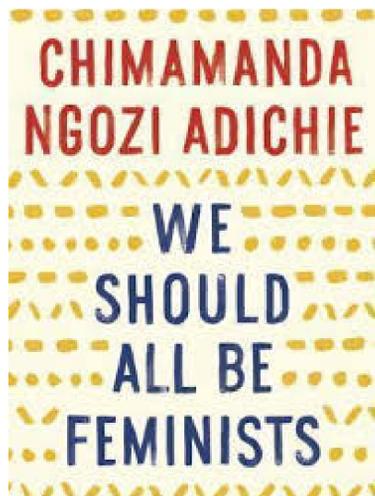
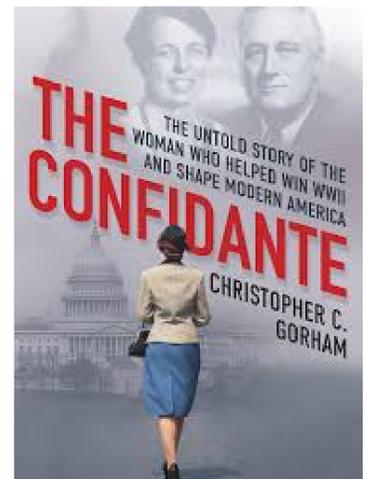


Ida B. the Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells by Michelle Duster

This biography celebrates the life of Ida B. Wells, a pioneering journalist, suffragist, and anti-lynching activist. Michelle Duster, Wells' great-granddaughter, brings her ancestor's story to life, highlighting her courage and determination in the face of racism and sexism. It's a tribute to a trailblazer whose legacy continues to inspire.

The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America by Christopher C. Gorham

This book tells the story of Anna Rosenberg, a Hungarian immigrant who became one of the most influential women in American history. As a trusted advisor to presidents and military leaders, Rosenberg played a key role in shaping policies during WWII and beyond. It's a fascinating account of a woman who broke barriers in a male-dominated world.

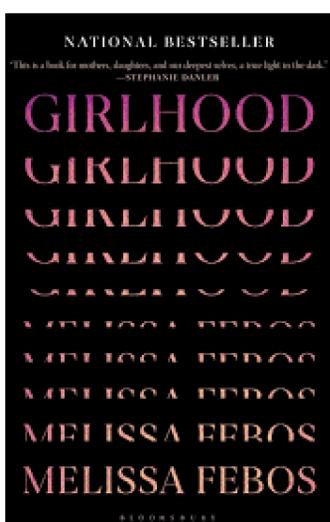
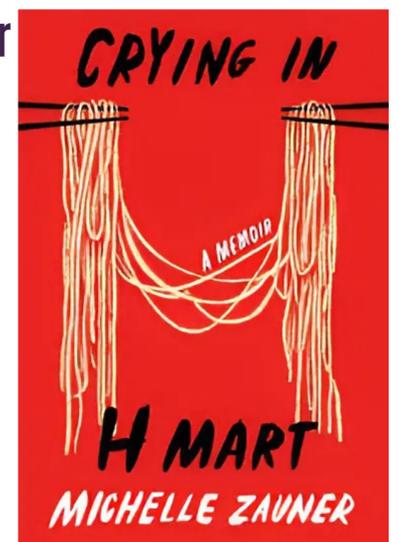


We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Adapted from her iconic TEDx talk, this essay is a concise and compelling argument for gender equality. Adichie explores the ways sexism manifests in everyday life and calls for a more inclusive and equitable society. It's a must-read for anyone interested in feminism and social justice..

Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner

This a heartfelt and deeply personal memoir that explores themes of grief, identity, and the bond between a mother and daughter. Michelle Zauner, the lead singer of the indie band Japanese Breakfast, recounts her experiences growing up as a Korean-American and the profound impact of her mother's death from cancer.



Girlhood: Essays by Melissa Febos

In this collection of essays, Melissa Febos reflects on her experiences growing up as a girl and the societal pressures that shape women's lives. She explores themes of identity, sexuality, and trauma, offering a deeply personal and thought-provoking perspective on girlhood and womanhood.

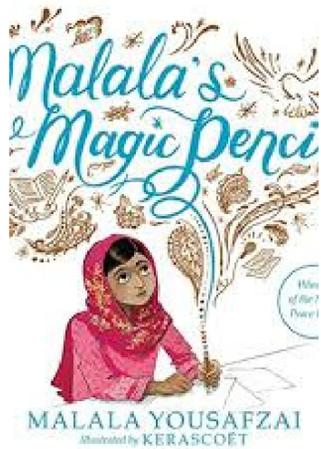
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Honoring WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Reading Suggestions for Children

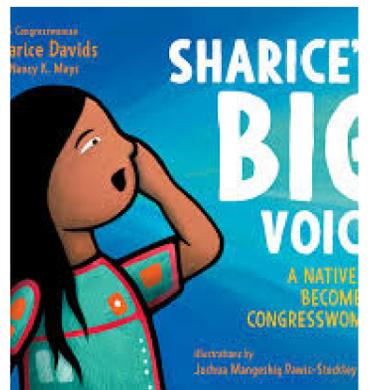


Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai

This picture book narrates Malala Yousafzai's childhood in Pakistan, where she initially wishes for a magic pencil to resolve personal issues. As she matures, her focus shifts to advocating for girls' education. It highlights the impact of voice and action, showcasing Malala's courageous fight for change amid life-threatening challenges. Illustrated by Kerascoët, the book features vibrant watercolors with gold embellishments, appealing to young readers.

Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman by Sharice Davids

This autobiographical picture book tells the story of Sharice Davids, a pioneering Native American and LGBTQ congressperson from Kansas. It showcases her Ho-Chunk heritage, passion for martial arts, and journey to law school and public service. Illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley, the vibrant artwork highlights themes of resilience, representation, and the power of using one's voice for change.



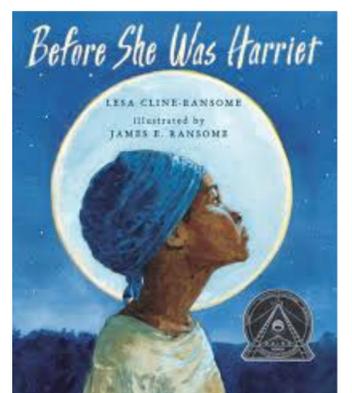
Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré

by Anika Aldamuy Denis

This picture book honors Pura Belpré, NYC's first Puerto Rican librarian, who pioneered bilingual storytelling in libraries and promoted Puerto Rican folklore. It emphasizes her role in multicultural education and features vibrant illustrations by Paola Escobar that reflect Belpré's legacy.

Before She Was Harriet by Lesa Cline-Ransome

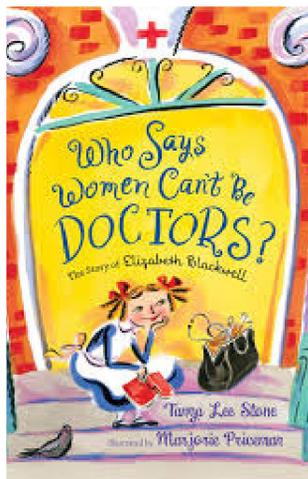
This poetic picture book highlights Harriet Tubman's various roles—abolitionist, suffragist, spy—through a reverse chronological narrative. It showcases her significant contributions to American history, complemented by evocative illustrations from James E. Ransome that reflect her resilience and leadership.



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Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell

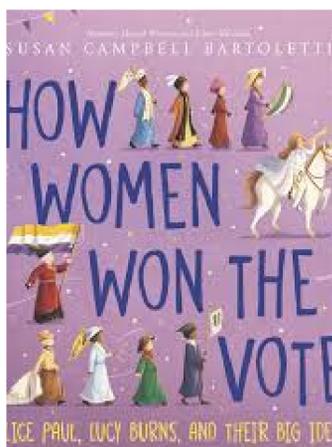
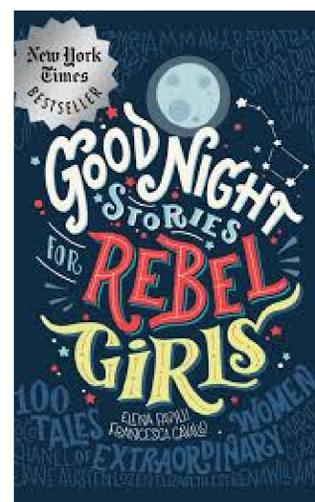
by Tanya Lee Stone

This picture book tells the inspiring story of Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. Despite facing significant gender discrimination, Blackwell persevered and paved the way for future generations of women in medicine. The book is both educational and motivational, with lively illustrations by Marjorie Priceman that bring Blackwell's journey to life.

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Tales of Extraordinary Women

by Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo

This bestselling book features 100 illustrated biographies of extraordinary women from history and the present day. Each story is concise yet impactful, highlighting the achievements of women like Frida Kahlo and Serena Williams. The book is designed to inspire young readers with its diverse representation and empowering messages.



How Women Won the Vote: Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Their Big Idea

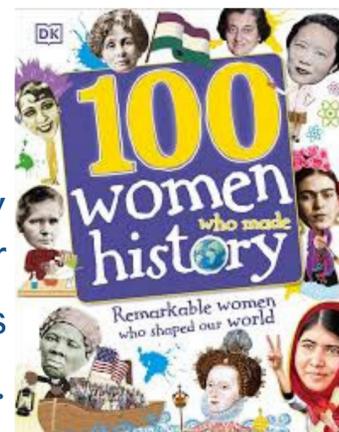
by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

This book delves into the efforts of Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and other suffragists who fought tirelessly for women's right to vote. It highlights their innovative strategies, including protests and hunger strikes, and their eventual success with the 19th Amendment. The book is both informative and engaging, with illustrations that capture the intensity of the movement.

100 Women Who Made History: Remarkable Women Who Shaped Our World

by Stella Caldwell, Clare Hibbert, Andrea Mills & Rona Skene

This visually captivating book highlights 100 influential women from history, including scientists, artists, activists, and leaders. Each entry showcases their achievements and impact, serving as a great resource for young readers interested in female trailblazers.



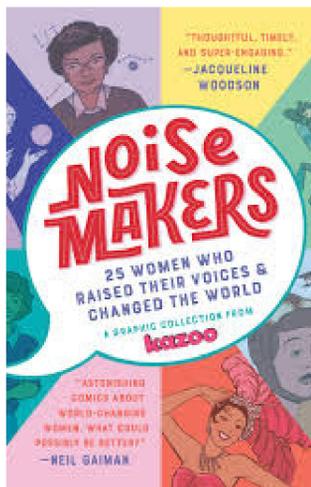
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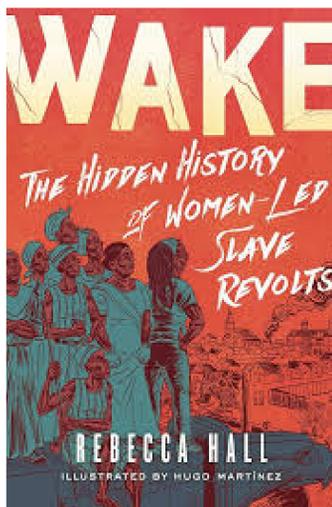
Honoring
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Suggested Graphic Novels



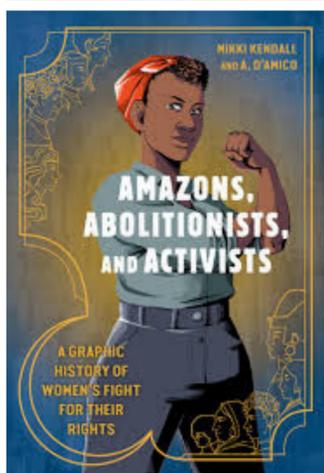
Noisemakers by Erin Bried

This illustrated anthology features 25 stories of women who made history by breaking barriers and challenging norms. From athletes and scientists to artists and activists, Noisemakers celebrates the achievements of women who refused to stay silent. The book is designed to inspire young readers with its vibrant artwork and engaging narratives.



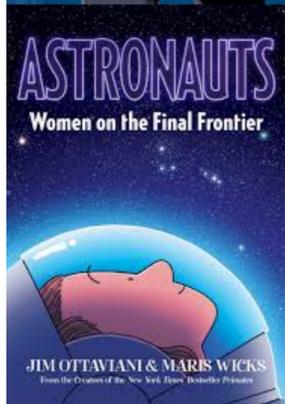
Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts by Rebecca Hall and Hugo Martínez

This graphic novel reveals the overlooked history of enslaved women who led revolts. Historian Rebecca Hall, a descendant of enslaved people, uses archival records to uncover these stories. Illustrated by Hugo Martínez, the book merges historical research with impactful visuals, showcasing the resilience of women fighting for freedom while reflecting on the emotional toll of these painful histories.



Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists by Mikki Kendall

This graphic novel provides a comprehensive look at the history of women's activism and resistance across cultures and time periods. Mikki Kendall highlights the contributions of women who fought for social justice, from ancient warriors to modern-day activists. The book is both educational and inspiring, offering a visual and engaging way to learn about the pivotal roles women have played in shaping history.



Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier by Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks

This graphic novel chronicles the history of women in space exploration, focusing on the challenges they faced and the milestones they achieved. Through engaging storytelling and detailed illustrations, the book highlights the contributions of pioneers like Valentina Tereshkova, Sally Ride, and Mae Jemison, offering an inspiring look at their journeys to the stars.

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