

The Amelia Bloomer Project 2016



Early Readers/Fiction
Early Readers/Non-fiction
Middle Grades/Fiction
Middle Grades/Non-fiction

Amelia Bloomer Project presents
the best books with significant
feminist content published
within the last 18 months

Shang, Wendy Wan-Long. The Way Home Looks Now. Gr.3-7.

Through the story of Peter Lee and his family's grief, this novel explores gender norms in the context of 1970s Little League baseball.

Stead, Rebecca. Goodbye Stranger. Grade 5-8.

This novel broadly examines the meaning of life, love, friendship, and identity in the lives of middle school girls on the cusp of adolescence.

Middle Grade/Non-fiction

Fertig, Dennis. Sylvia Earle: Ocean Explorer. Gr.3-6.

As a pioneer marine botanist and fearless adventurer, Sylvia Earle explored depths others had never reached and saw things never seen before by woman or man.

Hile, Lori. Rachel Carson: Environmental Pioneer. Gr.3-6.

Rachel Carson was determined to do what she loved and not what was expected of her. Her research and poetic writing on the dangers of pesticides changed the way Americans thought about conserving nature's resources.

Krieg, Katherine. Marie Curie: Physics and Chemistry Pioneer. Gr.4-6.

With the support of her family and other female scientists, Marie Curie discovered new elements and revolutionized science.

Lowery, Lynda Blackmon, as told to

Elsbeth Leacock and Susan

Buckley. Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March. Illus. by PJ Loughran. Gr.5-up.

Lynda Blackmon Lowery was the youngest person on the Selma Voting Rights March. Having already been to jail nine times and beaten on Bloody Sunday, Lynda stood up for her rights and her freedom.

***O'Shaughnessy, Tam.** Sally Ride: A Photobiography of America's Pioneering Woman in Space. Gr.4-8.

After spending years as an academic underachiever with a passion for tennis, Sally Ride discovered her love of physics and became the first American woman to travel to space.

Prévo, Franck. Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees. Illus. by Aurélie Fronty. Gr.3-5. Wangari Maathai dedicated her life to restoring Kenya's land by planting millions of trees throughout the country. Although Maathai was met with political and sexist retaliation, she helped save her environment and empowered women through a common cause.

Rosa, Sonia. When the Slave Esperança Garcia Wrote a Letter. Illus. by Luciana Justiniani Hees. Gr.3-6.

Esperança Garcia was a slave living in Brazil who, after learning to read and write, bravely decided to write a letter to the governor detailing her mistreatment and her desire to be returned to her family.

Senker, Cath. Stories of Women in the 1960s: Fighting for Freedom. Gr.4-8.

Through their accomplishments in political and social arenas, Betty Friedan, Ella Baker, Barbara Castle, and Mary Quant blazed paths and demonstrated new possibilities for American and British women.

Silvey, Anita. Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall. Gr. 5-9.

Jane Goodall's passion and perseverance led her to become the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees. Having spent decades in field observation, Dr. Goodall now teaches new generations to care for and ensure the safety of large primates.

Waxman, Laura Hamilton. Aerospace Engineer

Aprille Ericsson. Gr.3-5.

Despite being the only girl or African American in most of her science classes, Aprille Ericsson persevered to become an engineer at NASA. Ericsson uses her achievements to inspire other young women to pursue their STEM dreams.

***Weatherford, Carole Boston.** Voice of Freedom:

Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement. Illus. by Ekua Holmes. Gr.4-7.

Fannie Lou Hamer played an integral part in the Civil Rights Movement by raising her voice and fighting for freedom.

The Amelia Bloomer Project is part of the Feminist Task Force of the American Library Association's Social Responsibility Round Table.

The **2016 Amelia Bloomer Project**

Committee Members are: Katie Dersnah Mitchell, co-chair, Saline District Library (MI); Linda Parsons, co-chair, The Ohio State University, Marion (OH); Ann Bever, Dallas Public Library (TX); Katelyn Browne, University of Northern Iowa (IA); Kelly Dickinson, National Cathedral School (DC); Emily Fear, Sewickley Public Library (PA); Melissa Nemitz, West Windsor Public Library (NJ); Gesse Stark-Smith, Multnomah County Library (OR); Lizz Zitron, Pacific Lutheran University (WA); and Caitie Morpew (alternate), Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (PA).

An asterisk (*) indicates that a book is one of our Top Ten titles.

Early Readers/Fiction

***Engle, Margarita.** Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music. Illus. by Rafael López. PreS-Gr.2.

On an island filled with music, a young girl longs to play the drums. She challenges gender norms to follow her passion, and her “dream-bright music” persuades her community that everyone should be allowed to dream.

Grimes, Nikki. Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony, Inspired by Historical Facts. Illus. by Michele Wood. Gr.1-4. An imaginary conversation between Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony celebrates their triumphs for racial and gender equality.

Underwood, Deborah. Interstellar Cinderella. Illus. by Meg Hunt. PreS-Gr.1. This Cinderella has agency! She dreams of being the chief mechanic, swooning over starships and not boys, and saves the prince with a swift rocket repair.

Vernon, Ursula. Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible. Gr.1-5. Subverting fairytale conventions, Princess Harriet Hamsterbone takes matters into her own hands to save herself from a wicked fairy’s curse.

Early Readers/ Non-Fiction

Butzer, Anna. Maria Mitchell. Gr.K-2. The life of Maria Mitchell—a noted astronomer, librarian, and advocate for girls’ education—is presented for early readers.

***Deans, Karen.** Swing Sisters: The Story of the International Sweethearts of Rhythm. Illus. by Joe Cepeda. Gr.1-4. From their early days in Mississippi to their travels around the world, the Sweethearts made people dance—and question their assumptions about race and gender.

Lang, Heather. The Original Cowgirl: The Wild Adventures of Lucille Mulhall. Illus. by Suzanne Beaky. PreS-Gr.3. Lucille Mulhall, known as “America’s First Cowgirl”, followed her passion of riding and roping during a time when women were viewed as weak and unfit to participate in such physically grueling tasks.

McCully, Emily Arnold. Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story. Illus. by the author. K-Gr.3. Despite being told that baseball was a game for boys, Lizzie Murphy proved herself to be a better player than most of them by making a career for herself in baseball.

Meltzer, Brad. I Am Lucille Ball. Illus. by Christopher Eliopoulos. K-Gr.2. Although many told her that physical comedy wasn’t something proper girls did, Lucille Ball refused to give up on her dreams and went on to become a famous comedian, beloved performer and successful businesswoman.

Nolan, Nina. Mahalia Jackson: Walking with Kings and Queens. Illus. by John Holyfield. Gr.K-3. Gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, did not let financial or racial adversity stand in the way of her dreams and she utilized her fame and success to promote civil rights and equality.

Paul, Miranda. One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia. Illus. by Elizabeth Zunon. Gr.K-3. *One Plastic Bag* shows how Isatou Ceesay created a significant impact in her community and raised awareness globally about the impact of pollution on the environment.

Schatz, Kate. Rad American Women A-Z. Illus. by Miriam Klein Stahl. Gr.1-6. This introduction to radical American women from Angela Davis to Zora Neale Hurston encourages young feminists (female and male) to make a change in their own world.

Shepherd, Jodie. Mae Jemison. PreS-Gr.2. As the first African American woman in space, Mae Jemison broke many barriers in science and space technology. Her further work with philanthropies helps bring technology education to those who might not otherwise have access to it.

Taylor-Butler, Christine. Rosa Parks. Gr.1-4. Rosa Parks dedicated her life to fighting for civil rights and fought against the sexism that often kept her from being fully heard.

Turner, Ann. My Name is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth. Illus. by James Ransome. Gr 1-4. Sojourner Truth used her voice to fight injustice at a time when few women were able to do so.

Wallmark, Laurie. Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine. Illus. by April Chu. Gr.K-3. Ada Byron Lovelace had to fight to be taken seriously as a mathematician, but her determination put her in the forefront of mathematical and engineering research, making her a pioneer of computer science.

Middle Grade/Fiction

Al Mansour, Haifaa. The Green Bicycle. 2015. Gr.4-8. Wadжда challenges the idea of ‘acceptable’ behavior for girls in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, by selling mix tapes and snacks to fund her dream of a bicycle. Despite the repercussions of her rebellious actions, she refuses to have her feminist spirit silenced.

Cornwell, Betsy. Mechanica. Gr.5-8. Nicolette Lampton endures typical Cinderella trials: a dead mother, a dead father, a shrewish stepmother, two condescending stepsisters, and competition for the charming prince. Yet as Mechanica, Nicolette follows in her mother’s footsteps creating wondrous automata.

Ellis, Grace, and Noelle Stevenson. Beware the Kitten Holy (Lumberjanes, vol. 1). Illus. by Brooke Allen. Gr.6-9. The Lumberjanes – Jo, Molly, Mal, April, and Ripley- are a group of young women spending the summer at a camp for “hard-core lady-types.” They work together to defeat monsters, and use their unique skills to solve the mystery of what’s really going on at the camp.

Ellis, Grace, and Noelle Stevenson. Friendship to the Max (Lumberjanes, vol. 2). Illus. by Brooke Allen. Gr.6-9. Once again, the Lumberjanes must depend on each other and combine their diverse talents to save their beloved camp—and possibly the universe.

Hannigan, Kate. The Detective’s Assistant. Gr.4-6. Eleven-year-old Nell Warne arrives orphaned and unwelcomed at her Aunt Kitty’s doorstep. To prove her value in her independent aunt’s life, Nell helps Aunt Kitty solve cases with the Pinkerton Detective Agency.

Hilton, Marilyn. Full Cicada Moon. Gr.4-7. Mimi is a half-Japanese, half-black young scientist who dreams of becoming an astronaut. As she adjusts to a new home in Vermont, she and many of her classmates fight for the right to take wood shop and the agency to dismantle racist and sexist stereotypes.