



# Glenfield's Top 10 Books

TOP TEN BOOKS HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

A Recommended List for Middle School Readers

Curated by Mrs. Virginia Weaver, Glenfield School Librarian

**Brinkley, Douglas. *Rosa Parks*. New York: Viking book, 2000.**

Rosa Parks, an African American seamstress in 1955 Alabama, had no idea she was changing history when, work-weary, she refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus. Now she is immortalized for the defiance that sent her to jail and triggered a bus boycott that catapulted Martin Luther King, Jr. into the national spotlight. Who was she, before and after her historic act, and how did it sound the death knell for Jim Crow?

**Chang, Ina. *A Separate Battle: Women and the Civil War*. New York: Puffin Books, 1991.**

A survey of women's many roles, vividly illuminated with dozens of person stories of both famous and the obscure... Archival photos and engravings, maps, broadsides, cartoons, and boxed treatment of special topics are all skillfully chosen to support the fascinating, well-organized text..."

**Dietz, Heather. *Newbery Girls: Selection from Fifteen Newbery Award-Winning Books*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2000.**

Presents selections from fifteen Newbery Award-winning novel, including "Misty of Chincoteague," "The Courage of Sarah Novel," "The Tombs of Atuan," "Dicey's Song, and The View from Saturday."

**Fleming, Candace. *Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005.**

There has hardly been a life in the last century that Eleanor Roosevelt has not affected, in one way or another. From securing safe, low-cost housing for Kentucky's poor, to helping her grandchildren hang a tire swing on the White House's south lawn, to representing America as the first female delegate to the United Nations.

**Freedman, Russell. *Martha Graham: A Dancer's Life*. New York: Clarion Books, 1998.**

A photobiography of the American dancer, teacher, and choreographer who was born in Pittsburg in 1895 and who became a leading figure in the world of modern dance.

**Gorrell, Gena K. *Heart and Soul: The story of Florence Nightingale*. New York: Tundra Books, 2000.**

Today Florence Nightingale is often thought of as a tender angel of mercy, In fact, the real Florence was a difficult, demanding woman who eagerly traded a life of pampered upper-class idleness for a calling that burned within her. At a time when respectable women did not work as nurses, and when ladies did not work at all, she horrified her family by becoming a nurse.

**Hansen, Joyce. *Women of Hope: African Americans Who Made a Difference*. New York: Scholastic Press: 1998.**

Features photographs and biographies of thirteen African-American women, including Maya Angelou, Ruby Dee, and Alice Walker.

**Lewis, Anna M. *Women of Steel and Stone: 22 Inspirational Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Designers*, New York: Chicago Review Press, 2014.**

With many of the profiles set against the backdrop of such landmark events as the women's suffrage and civil right movements and the Industrial Revolution, and with original interviews from a number of current architects and engineers, this book provides inspiration and advice directly to young women by highlighting positive examples of how a strong work ethic, perseverance, and creativity can overcome life's obstacles.

**Tyler, Natalie. *The Friendly Jane Austen: A Well Mannered Introduction to a Lady of Sense and Sensibility*. New York: Viking, 1999.**

Natalie Tyler shuns the obscure academic studies of Austen's writings to provide lively often humorous discussion on every one of Austen's novels and favorite characters. Quizzes, eye-catching illustrations, interviews with Austen scholars and lovers - such as Jane Smiley, T. C. Boyle, and Miss Manners - a filmography, a bibliography, and browsable quotes and sidebars throughout.

**Welty. Eudora. *One Writer's Beginnings*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1995.**

Eudora Welty is to be looked for, not in blatant self-advertising confidences, hint and nudges, but in metaphorical clues she drops, which are the exposures of a disciplined sensibility. From them we can deduce a history of life. One might say her writing, spun out like the web of a 'noiseless patient spider' is not about but of herself.

\*Descriptions are from publishers